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Arab-Israeli Talks

Syria, Israel Said To Reach Outlines for Agreement

JN0706133694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian parliamentary sources have disclosed that Syria and Israel have reached an agreement on the broad outlines of Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which Israel occupied in 1967, pointing out that the U.S.-brokered negotiations between the two sides will resume soon. Citing Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, these source said that Damascus has made further steps conditional on an Israeli Knesset announcement of the abrogation of the decision under which Israel annexed the Golan Heights. The decision was issued in January 1981. Syria has also demanded that Israel publicly recognize UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on the principle of exchanging land for peace, as well as Resolution 425 calling for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

The timetable for the Israeli withdrawal remains the subject of dispute because the Jewish state is talking about seven years while Syria insists that the period should not exceed three years, according these same sources. If Israel meets Syria's conditions, Damascus will be prepared to raise the level of bilateral negotiations—something that has been demanded by Israel. Only then will U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher resume his shuttle tours between the two states.

In another development, Syria is demanding a piece of land known as the Palestinian Golan Heights in the Syrian al-Hammah area. It was annexed to the Syrian Golan Heights in 1938 and then was occupied by Israel along with the rest of the heights during the Six-Day War. Israel, however, refuses to withdraw from it.

Jordanian, Israeli Delegates Discuss Borders, Water

Jordan: Separate Deal 'Out of the Question'

PM0706134294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq]

[Excerpt] Washington—Representatives from the United States, Jordan, and Israel yesterday began talks in Washington which will last two days, that is in the framework of the tripartite U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli committee formed in the wake of the creditor states conference held in Washington at the beginning of last October, to discuss economic issues. Israel and Jordanian officials are hoping that these talks will help to break the deadlock in the peace negotiations.

Sources in Washington have said that the talks, which are the fourth round held by the committee, will discuss issues like the issue of the border between Jordan and Israel, as the latter has agreed to discuss it in these talks. The sources denied that the talks are a kind of Jordanian separation to secure a peace agreement with Israel.

Meanwhile, Jordanian sources have said that the talks being held in Washington were not allocated to discussing the border issue, but to discussing economic issues in the framework of the tripartite committee. But Israel agreed to discuss the border issue.

The sources pointed out that the talks will also deal with the water issue between the two countries. However, they stressed that it is out of the question for Jordan to sign a peace agreement outside the scope of the comprehensive solution on the basis of which the peace process was launched. [passage omitted]

Rubinstein: 'Good Round' of Talks

TA0706195394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Report by Elimelekh Ram from Washington]

[Excerpt] The economic talks between Israel and Jordan will be transferred to the Middle East. This was decided at the end of another round of talks in Washington. It was also decided that a border survey will be performed by joint Israeli and Jordanian teams. Elimelekh Ram reports from the U.S. capital:

[Begin recording] [Ram] The fact that Major General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Planing Branch, took part in the talks which were mainly economic, attests to the security aspect of the decisions made—whether the issue in question is planning a road that would link Israel and Jordan or whether it was the establishment of joint projects in areas that could be sensitive from a security point of view. Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, sums up the current round of talks:

[Rubinstein] This was a good round of contacts on both the tripartite level of Israel, Jordan, and the United States—which mainly focused on economic issues such as trade, finance, and projects—as well as on the level of the additional talks we held with Jordan—which focused on issues such as security, borders, water, and the like.

[Ram] The atmosphere at the talks was most optimistic. There is a Jordanian readiness to make progress in the negotiations. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Teams Sign 3 Documents on 'Principles'

TA0806044?94 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] The Jordanian and Israeli delegations signed three documents in Washington yesterday. The documents comprise principles on borders, security, water, environmental issues, and other subjects. At the conclusion of two days of talks in Washington, the heads of both

delegations announced that the talks would continue next month for the first time in Jordan and Israel. The talks will deal with transportation, aviation, trade, economic and tourism issues. Among other things, the delegations will discuss building a highway which will connect Jordan, Egypt, and Israel in the al-'Aqabah-Elat area. Jordan and Israel also decided to invite the Palestinians to participate in a new forum which will deal with economic, banking, and monetary matters.

Jordanian Delegate on Outcome of Talks

JN0806062594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Meetings of the tripartite Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli economic committee were concluded in Washington yesterday evening. Chief Jordanian delegate Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah said that the talks addressed economic topics listed on the agenda, including Palestinian-Israeli agreements and the issue of developing the Jordan Valley. The conferees examined working papers that addressed a comprehensive development of the Jordan Valley, as well as future projects, about which the U.S. side expressed a willingness to chart an overall plan, Dr. al-Tarawinah added.

Dr. al-Tarawinah went on to say: During these talks, the Jordanian side underscored the importance of linking these topics to the bilateral issues contained in the Jordanian-Israeli agenda signed on 14 September 1993, particularly the issues of borders, occupied Jordanian territories, and water. It must be recalled that the agenda is an indivisible whole, and that all the topics contained in it must be discussed and negotiated in accordance with the terms of reference of the peace process, and on the basis of the provisions enshrined in the joint agenda.

Dr. al-Tarawinah said: A main broad Jordanian-Israeli committee has been set up to discuss the issues of borders, security, water resources, environment, and other issues. Subcommittees will emanate from this main committee. Moreover, efforts to demarcate and delineate borders will start. Discussions also touched on other issues that need further study, such as the issue pertaining to the road that will link Jordan, Egypt, and Israel, and other issues pertaining to the projects included in the Jordanian paper on the Jordan Valley. A subagenda on water resources, energy, and environment, and another subagenda on borders, occupied territories, and security have been agreed on. The negotiations will be conducted within the context of the subcommittees. Discussions of technical issues will be resumed in the region to achieve the highest possible degree of accuracy, particularly with regard to the issue of borders. The talks are scheduled to resume next month.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Regrets New Outbreak of Yemeni Fighting

NC0706150194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] The Arab League regrets the new eruption of fighting in Yemen only a few hours after Sanaa accepted a cease-fire as announced by its foreign minister, Muhammad Salim Basindwah.

Counselor Tal'at Hamid, the Arab League secretary general's press spokesman, said that the resumption of military action in Yemen does not help create the appropriate circumstances for negotiations. He added that the Arab League supports any Arab or international effort to stop this destructive war in line with UN Security Council Resolution 924.

Hamid reported that the Arab League secretary general is constantly in touch with Yemeni leaders in the north and south and with several other Arab countries to implement the Security Council resolution.

League Official on Arab Boycott, Arab-Israeli Ties

NC0706103894 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 2 Jun 94 p 11

[Report by 'Ali Jamalu from Damascus]

[Text] Arab League Assistant Secretary General 'Adnan 'Imran has criticized the biased U.S. position which favors Israel in the ongoing peace operation. He stressed that the Arab boycott of Israel will continue and will not end until its goal of making the occupation disappear is reached. Concerning the Yemeni war, he said the Arab League's position is illustrated by its call for a cease-fire and resuming dialogue.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR in Damascus, 'Imran commented on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent Middle East tour by saying: "Every effort made by the parties capable of putting pressure on Israel is welcome. However the role of sponsor, or intermediary, requires basic specific qualifications that might prove very important in attaining the desired objective. The primary qualification is impartiality. If we examine this point, we will notice a fatal flaw. Israel almost totally and continuously lives on absolute U.S. backing. In this connection I wish to express regret over the recent U.S. arms deals for Israel which seem to suggest that the coming climate will be one of war, not peace."

'Imran continued: "The seriousness of this issue lies in the fact that Israel interprets such arms deals as encouragement for its intransigence, rejection, prevarication, and procrastination. This is how Israel interprets the U.S. Administration's unjust and unfair attitude to Syria and several other Arab countries which the U.S. State Department puts on the list of countries that support terrorism. This is a questionable, political list."

The Arab assistant secretary general continued: "This contravenes the logic of neutrality and balance in relations that a mediator must possess. At any rate we would like this mediator's role to continue but would like the U.S. sponsor to reconsider its attitude."

On the Arab boycott of Israel, 'Imran said: "We do not boycott Israel for the fun of it. At the same time we do not want to surrender or abandon Arab rights. This

explains our statement that ending the boycott hinges on ending its causes. These causes are the occupation and Israel's defiance of the international community through its continued aggression. When the cause disappears, the consequence will end. Furthermore, the boycott is not something we invented. We have merely copied about five percent of the boycotts carried out by the United States worldwide with and without justification. We hope that the boycott will end along with its causes when a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace is attained and UN resolutions are implemented.

On Qatar and Oman's hosting of two Israeli delegations, 'Imran said: "We did not arrange these visits. What we stick by is that all Arab countries, including Qatar and Oman, during official meetings should affirm their adherence to peace that leads to withdrawal and ends aggression. They also should not have any dealings with Israel under any circumstances, as long as it is an aggressor and occupier and does not adhere to the stipulations of international law. These are important points and I believe that no normalization of relations should take place by any country that adheres to our central cause, be that from the point of view of patriotism, religion, or heritage. By this, I mean the Arab and Islamic countries. All occupied territories must be regained, including Jerusalem, before normalizing relations with Israel."

'Imran said: "All of Israel's desperate attempts to set up bridges between it and some Islamic countries must fail. I can safely say that such bridges are weak and will certainly collapse. Israel is fooling itself if it believes that it will realize any gains in this direction. In fact, such a method will reveal to what extent Israel will indirectly feel that it is an aggressor and that it has no pride when grovelling for relations with any of these countries."

On the role the Arab League is playing to stop the Yemeni war, 'Imran said that the Arab League's initiative did not fail, but was not complete. "The Arab stand was clear. It demanded a cease-fire and called for dialogue to preserve the unity of the Yemeni people."

He added that it was not easy to reach Sanaa. "We overcame all the difficulties of our objective. There also, our mission was not easy. The Arab League Secretariat's delegation exerted its utmost efforts through a series of meetings it held with the Yemeni leaders. These meetings were crowned by a meeting with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The delegation presented the League's stand, which included a message from the secretary general to Salih and provided additional explanations of the Arab stand, as unanimously expressed by the Arab countries during the extraordinary Arab League session."

The Arab League assistant secretary general said that our mission's first stop was successful, despite the atmosphere of fighting which is not constructive. "I cannot make an evaluation as to whether or not the mission failed at our second stop, because so far, we have not received a satisfactory or final answer to the Arab initiative presented by the Arab League's delegation. We were hoping to get a commitment to a final cease-fire; however, we realize that situations under such circumstances cannot be resolved with the ease that we would like. These difficulties require greater efforts, which is what the secretary general is currently doing, through his daily contacts with the Arab leaders to establish a speedy mechanism for implementing the Arab League Council's resolution issued during its extraordinary session."

'Imran said: "The Arab initiative has not ended at all. We hope that the end of the initiative will be when its goals, which I pointed out earlier, are realized: Immediately halting the fighting, working on restoring dialogue, and preserving the unity of Yemen.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Autonomy Issues

'Arafat Emphasizes Need for Funding

LD0706214294 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, this morning received Mr. John McCarthy the ambassador of the United States in Tunis.

During the meeting President 'Arafat received two important messages from the U.S. Administration pertaining to the current situation and the implementation of the Palestinian-Israel agreement and also the U.S. Administration's efforts with the donor states before the meeting scheduled for 9 June 1994.

The meeting was an opportunity to review the current developments of the take over of the Palestinian authorities in Gaza Sector and Jericho.

President 'Arafat had asked the donor states to speed the fulfillment of their pledges to enable the Palestinian National Authority to discharge their duties and implement their obligations in development and construction each of which is an urgent and fundamental necessity to strengthen the foundations of peace.

On his part, the U.S. ambassador expressed the interest of the U.S. Administration in the success of the peace process and in enabling the Palestinian authorities of discharging their duties successfully and as soon as possible.

The meeting was attended by Dr Sami Musallam, director-general of President Yasir 'Arafat's office.

Warns of Postponement of Jericho Visit

NC0706195394 Paris AFP in English 1856 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, June 7 (AFP)—PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat, emerging from a five-day isolation due to illness, warned

Washington on Tuesday [7 June] that he might put off a visit to the self-rule enclave of Jericho, a source close to the PLO said.

'Arafat told the US ambassador to Tunis, John McCarthy, "clearly and firmly" that he would not travel to Jericho unless he received a guarantee of international aid for Palestinian autonomy, the source said.

He said the PLO chairman wanted assurances that the Palestinians would receive monthly payments of several million dollars to keep self-rule on track in the West Bank town and the Gaza Strip.

McCarthy, in turn, told 'Arafat that the United States wanted the Palestinian self-rule authority to take up its responsibilities "as soon as possible," the Palestinian news agency WAFA said.

It reported that 'Arafat, who was "feeling better" according to his aides, also met Russian ambassador Boris Shchiborin to discuss the aid issue, amid demands from donors of assurances on how their money would be spent.

They were the first official meetings for the PLO leader since he took refuge in his rooms five days earlier because of illness.

Arafat, coughing and looking tired, said last week during an interview with the US television network CBS from the PLO headquarters in Tunis that he had a cold.

But Palestinian and hospital sources said he had been suffering from heart problems and was being monitored by doctors.

The PLO chief is scheduled to travel to Jericho in mid-June, for a visit during which a 24-member Palestinian authority headed by Arafat is due to be formally sworn in to run the autonomous areas.

WAFA said 'Arafat on Tuesday also telephoned Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal, whose country heads a liaison committee in charge of coordinating the aid.

The PLO leader could travel to the French capital on Friday, the source close to the organisation said.

'Arafat Asks Norway To Secure International Aid

LD0706213694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Brother President Yasir 'Arafat had today a telephone conversation with the Mr. Godal, the Norwegian foreign minister.

The conversation dealt with the latest development in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process and the means for bolstering it by starting the rebuilding process as soon as possible.

They also talked about the International Coordination Committee of the donor-countries and the need to fulfill its pledges by giving monies to the Palestinian authority in order that the latter would meet its development and rebuilding pledges in the self rule areas.

Sweden Not To Contribute Money to Police Force

PM0706124094 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 6 Jun 94 p 9

[Report by Bitte Hammargren: "Foreign Ministry 'No' to Money for PLO"]

[Excerpt] The Swedish Foreign Ministry is saying a categorical "no" to contributing to the wage costs of the 9,000-man Palestinian police force which has the difficult task of being responsible for security in Gaza and Jericho. Recently the new UN assistant secretary general, Norway's Terje Rod Larsen, called for international help to finance the police force. Without a functioning police force in Gaza there will be chaos, Terje Rod Larsen warned.

The PLO's coffers are more or less empty. The situation is so precarious that the Palestinian policemen in Gaza are not even having their wages paid to them.

The Foreign Ministry's message is the same which PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat heard from Prime Minister Carl Bildt during his visit to Stockholm in November last year.

However, Sweden is prepared to help with the training of the Palestinian police.

The Police High School in Solna has drafted a training program, said Alf Samulelson, Aid Minister Alf Svensson's under secretary of state.

The Swedish proposal, which has been passed on to the PLO, is about teaching forensic procedures and traffic surveillance. [passage omitted]

Quray' on PNA Expenses, Israeli 'Temporization'

JN0306140794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with PNA member Ahmad Quray', in Tunis, by Sa'id Mu'addi in the studio; date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] PNA [Palestinian National Authority] member Ahmad Quray', the expenses required by the Palestinian Authority are not small, especially those needed to run the police. Where will the money come from to cover these expenses?

[Quray'] In the long run, the Palestinian authority will have no problem coming up with the money. But in the interim, the donor nations are duty-bound to make available all the finances required for the security forces

and other departments of the authority. I cannot make sense of this hesitation and foot-dragging in providing the finances for the Palestinian authority. We cannot overstate the importance of this factor, if the peace process is to be kept going and its momentum maintained.

[Mu'addi] It is now a month since the Israeli-Palestinian accord was signed, and yet the Palestinian authority, which has to tackle major challenges, has still to become operational. What's the delay?

[Quray'] We trust the Palestinian authority will be operational before long. Cadres of the PNA were supposed to begin all their duties in earnest so the transformation could become visible to the Palestinian man in the street, and in order for the world to witness the Palestinians' ability to deliver. The security forces are now deployed, and I think ordinary Palestinians are happy with their performance. We trust the bureaucracies will become operational soon.

[Mu'addi] The tax and customs crews have not begun their work yet, which may result in reduced revenues. When will that be?

[Quray'] At the moment, strictly speaking, there is no tax collecting agency to raise money to pay for the PNA's expenses. We have no choice but to organize the tax collecting authority. We hope that, now that there is a Finance Ministry, this department will institute this agency soon.

[Mu'addi] How do you propose to quicken the slow pace of implementing the economic agreement and opening the Israeli market to goods from the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

[Quray'] The Israeli side is, inexplicably and inexcusably, responsible for the slow pace. We had thought they would be anxious to put the agreement in place without reneging on any of its clauses, particularly given that, in this equation, they are the stronger side. I just cannot understand, nobody can understand, why there are obstacles to the export of Palestinian agricultural produce to the Israeli market. If this clause is not implemented, what else is left of the agricultural agreement, or even the trade accord, to implement? Of all matters, there should not be any foot- dragging on this thing. The Israelis are in a position to settle this issue promptly. Their temporization is inexcusable.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ahmad Quray', Thank you so much.

[Quray'] Thank you.

Quray' Underscores Financial Problem

JN0606203694 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], member of the Palestinian National Authority, has announced that brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and his aides nill return to Jericho and Gaza in late June.

In press statements published in the Tunisian capital yesterday, brother Abu-'Ala' added that brother Abu-'Ammar and senior Palestinian officials will not return to Jericho and Gaza Strip prior to the meeting due to be held by donor nations in Paris on 9-10 June.

It should be recalled that brother president Abu-'Ammar said in a statement to a U.S. television network that he will not leave for the autonomous areas unless the international community quickly fulfills its financial commitments to the Palestinian self-rule.

In his statements, brother Abu-'Ala' noted that the [Palestinian] leadership is facing acute financial problems. He added that this issue was raised by brother president Abu-'Ammar during a recent meeting he had with a U.S. Senate delegation in Tunis.

Brother Abu-'Ala' emphasized that the Palestinian administration badly needs the required funds to pay the salaries of Palestinian policemen and employees, and also to rehabilitate and rebuild Gaza and the West Bank, particularly since Israel has exploited the resources of these two areas and caused immense damage there.

Brother Abu-'Ala' also hoped that the Paris talks, which will follow up on financial and economic issues regarding the autonomy authority, will adequately and shortly settle the problem pertaining to the disbursement of pledged funds, which he said is worrying Palestinian leaders and strugglers.

Development Council Urges Aid Pledge Fulfillment

JN0506161294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Hasan Abu-Libdah, deputy director general of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah, deputy director general of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, good evening.

[Abu-Libdah] Good evening to you.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hasan, has the $5 million—the first installment of the money committed by the donor nations—materialized?

[Abu-Libdah] The Palestinian leadership represented by brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] signed the transfer application about two weeks ago. We should receive that sum any minute; it will be used to cover some pressing needs.

[Mu'addi] The staff at the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction is busy preparing

lists of cadres and institutions promised by the PLO to the donor nations. Are you through with this task?

[Abu-Libdah] Let may say, to begin with, that we promised the donor nations to revamp certain institutions, and success in that effort will decide the fate of international aid. We did that job by constituting the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction. Other institutions are being founded, now that the members of the Palestinian National Authority have been named. We delivered on all our legal and official commitments demanded by the donor nations. We are now waiting for the donor nations to deliver on their end.

[Mu'addi] It seems that this week the donor nations will convene a session in Paris. What is their agenda? Will the matter be settled there?

[Abu-Libdah] That will be a meeting of the secretariat of the donor nations. It will address a number of the issues that have been preoccupying us. They will consider our effort to draw up a budget for the national authority. Hopefully, we will be able to convince these nations to make good on the promises they made in January, 1994 and to plug the anticipated deficit in the budget of the Palestinian Authority, both regarding the Palestinian police and the central administration. Beyond that, we are preparing a number of documents, through which we hope to fill the needs of the authority so it can begin its operation. Let me make it clear that, since it signed the Oslo accord, the Palestinian side has done all it can to meet the conditions required to qualify for the international aid that was pledged to us. We are at a crossroads. If the donor nations fail to meet their obligations, we will be hard pressed to fulfill our commitments toward the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. In my opinion, the peace process must not be built solely on verbal promises. We are at a stage when we most need for the verbal pledges to be converted into reality.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah, deputy director general of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, thank you.

[Abu-Libdah] Thank you.

Says Peace Will 'Collapse' Without Payments

JN0706143894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0955 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Report by radio correspondent Ahmad 'Ubaydat; from the "With the Midday Events" program]

[Text] In a news conference held by Hasan Abu-Libdah, deputy director general of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, PECDAR, at the PECDAR headquarters in al-Barid suburb, northern Jerusalem, Dr. Abu-Libdah expressed the hope that all problems hindering the payment of funds by donor states will be overcome within the next few weeks so that the payments can be devoted to production and work, and to set up the infrastructure and the establishments of the Palestinian authority. He added:

[Begin Abu-Libdah recording] Since the signing of the agreement, several quarters have raised Palestinian expectations concerning what will come out of this agreement economically. The donor states pledged more than $2 billion last October, and renewed pledges of more than $643 million last January. Five weeks after signing the agreement, we have received only $5 million deposited in bank account in Cairo to pay part of the Palestinian police force's salaries. We signed an order to draw nearly $6.5 million two weeks ago from the funds available with the bank, and we have not received anything so far. We expect to receive this sum soon.

Now the international community is being tested. Either we cooperate, on both the Palestinian and international levels, to realize the requisites for implementing this agreement and the donor countries will fulfill their commitments, or we will together witness the collapse of the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli level. The Palestinian National Authority will not be able to carry out its duties in Gaza and Jericho and meet its commitments toward the sons of our people in terms of services and the expected economic progress—it will not be able to fulfill these commitments if it does not overcome the budget deficit and if it does not receive enough support to carry out a host of vital projects on which we have been working for the last few months. [end recording]

Answering a question on whether the budget of the Palestinian Authority was endorsed by the Palestinian leadership, and how much this budget is, Dr. Abu-Libdah said:

[Begin Abu-Libdah recording] Yes, the budget has recently been endorsed by the Palestinian leadership. We are speaking about a budget that begins with this month and ends late this year. It is more than $360 million if we add the requirements of the Palestinian police force to this budget. Without the budget of the Palestinian police force, it will be about $220 million. Out of this sum, there is more than $126 million in expected deficit. As for the police budget, the situation is much worse than this. [end recording]

The temporary liaison committee of the donor countries will convene a meeting in Paris next Thursday. The Palestinians will present the Palestinian budget for 1994, which was worked out in cooperation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Israeli Environment Minister Visits Jericho Autonomy

TA0806131694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] After holding his first meeting with representatives of the autonomy in Jericho, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said that considering the prevailing conditions, he found the Palestinian Authority organized.

Sarid asserted that Israel had no complaints with regard to Palestinian control over the area. Sarid was speaking after a meeting with several Palestinian officials, including Faysal al-Husayni, Jibril al-Rujub, and a representative from the Gaza Strip.

The meeting was held at the al-Aqsa base, formerly known as the Hanan army camp. After the meeting, Yosi Sarid said it had been held with the approval and encouragement of Prime Minister Rabin. Sarid pointed out that issues related to Jerusalem were not raised at the meeting in Jericho, nor did the participants discuss the order prohibiting Jibril al-Rujub from leaving the Jericho area. In reply to a question, Minister Sarid said that [illegible]ns for continuing the peace process would resume soon.

Faysal al-Husayni said that the atmosphere at the meeting in Jericho had been positive, noting that problems pertaining to the daily life of the Palestinian populace had been discussed.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 8 June adds: "Referring to Orient House in East Jerusalem, Sarid said that its status will not change and that all Palestinian Authority institutions will be located only in the Gaza and Jericho.

["Minister Sarid reprimanded the settlers at the ancient synagogue in Jericho for their provocative behavior toward the Palestinian policemen, but noted that he does not propose evacuating them from the site. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that two armed Israeli security guards are posted at the entrance to the synagogue. According to a military source, these are soldiers in civilian clothes, and their presence was coordinated with the Palestinians. The settlers claim that the two were hired as security guards to protect them.

["Sarid noted that Former Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren's halakic edict sentencing 'Arafat to death is serious. The man is deranged, Sarid said, and he should not be taken seriously because his status is of no relevance."]

Al-Tarifi on Jerusalem Activity, Prisoner Release

TA0806074494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Palestinian leaders are continuing widespread political activities in East Jerusalem, which are coordinated with the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The Palestinians are now saying that they are prepared to renew the negotiations with Israel on the transfer of authorities in the other West Bank towns. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin recording] [Amir] The furor surrounding the letter written by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has led to a confidence crisis among Palestinian leaders. The affair has been exploited by Palestinian supporters of the peace process who oppose the Gaza-Jericho First agreement and believe that it is detrimental to the Palestinian cause. Faysal al-Husayni, as if to highlight the political activities at Orient House, received a delegation of foreign consuls in his office and Palestinian leaders continued yesterday to hold discussions on Jerusalem's current situation as well as its future. A Palestinian source pointed out that although the famous letter sent to the Norwegian foreign minister was not addressed to the PLO, the letter's contents had undoubtedly been coordinated with the PLO. To prove his point, the source noted that he had a copy of the letter before it was signed by Foreign Minister Peres, which was dated 9 September.

Jamil al-Tarifi, a member of the higher liaison committee and one of 'Arafat's closest aides, yesterday emphasized that at the time, the letter of commitment guaranteed that the Palestinian delegation could carry out the political activities in East Jerusalem that were necessary in order to conduct negotiations with Israel. Al-Tarifi asserted that it was impossible to separate the political activities of PLO institutions in East Jerusalem and the activities of the autonomy institutions, which will indeed be located in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, as stipulated by the agreement.

[Al-Tarifi, in English] Everybody knows that we have many institutions in Jerusalem. It will be as it is, and of course it's a Palestinian institute and we will not change anything on it. So, nobody can cut the relations between the Palestinians and their leadership, which is PLO and one of its organizations PPA [sentence as heard].

[Amir translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Al-Tarifi expressed the assessment that now, following the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, the negotiations with Israel on the transfer of authorities could be resumed. Al-Tarifi said that the Palestinians would demand authority over more than the five spheres of health, education and culture, tourism, social welfare, and direct taxation stipulated by the Gaza-Jericho First agreement.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 8 June adds that "the PLO has rejected an Israeli proposal to release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners tomorrow after Israel demanded that the prisoners remain in the Gaza Strip before returning to their homes until their original prison terms were over. This was stated by Jamil al-Tarifi, a member of the Palestinian Authority. Al-Tarifi said that Yasir 'Arafat had instructed him over the telephone yesterday to reject the release proposal and said that the Israeli offer contravened the Cairo agreement. He expressed the hope that this was merely a misunderstanding and that an agreement would be reached on the release of the Palestinian prisoners."]

AFP: Israeli Offer on Prisoner Release Rejected

NC0806082094 Paris AFP in English 0724 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Jerusalem, June 8 (AFP)—The PLO has rejected an Israeli offer to release 2,500 Palestinian prisoners on

condition that they serve out their time in the self-rule area of Gaza, a member of the Palestinian Authority said Wednesday [8 June].

"The Israeli conditions are to send them to Gaza to finish their sentences," authority member Jamil al-Tarifi told AFP.

"During this time they would not be under police custody or in prison they would just have to stay in Gaza."

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had spurned the offer, al-Tarifi said.

"According to the Cairo agreement for autonomy, 5,000 were to be released as a first step with no such conditions" he pointed out.

"The prisoners also refuse this option."

Al-Tarifi said Israel was prepared to free 2,500 inmates on Thursday provided the PLO agreed to keep them all in Gaza. "As far as we know they will now not be released."

'Arafat had appointed 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, who took part in the self-rule negotiations in Egypt, to head a coordinating committee for security which will review the prisoner problem with the Israeli authorities.

Al-Yahya arrived in the autonomous enclave of Jericho on Tuesday.

About 8,000 Palestinians are still held in Israeli jails. Out of the 5,000 due to be released within five weeks of the signing of the May 4 self-rule deal, only 1,700 have so far been set free.

Israel has given no reasons for the hold up nor confirmed that it had offered to free 2,500 with the above conditions.

PLO Reaches Fuel Supply Agreement With Egypt

TA0606124894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The PLO is reported to have reached agreement with Egypt on the regular supply of fuel and gas to the self-rule areas. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says within the next few days the first Egyptian tanker will anchor off Gaza to supply fuel to the strip. In the strip, fuel prices have already gone down by 10 percent when compared with Israeli prices.

Al-Husayni: Israel Trying To Change Jerusalem's Status

TA0606193494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Members of the Jerusalem Committee headed by Faysal al-Husayni decided tonight to set up another follow-up committee headed by al-Husayni to watch carefully developments on Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the committee members demanded the immediate lifting of the closure, which cuts the city off from the territories. They blamed Israel with attempting to decide the status of Jerusalem unilaterally at this stage of the process.

Struggle To Bolster Status in Jerusalem Continues

TA0706193294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Report by Linda Sherzer—italicized passages in English; speakers identified by on-screen caption]

[Text] Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem today accused Israel of violating their rights by restricting their political presence in the city. Our correspondent Linda Sherzer reports from a meeting that took place at Orient House today:

[Begin recording] [Sherzer] When foreign consular officials came to Orient House for a briefing from the Palestinians regarding the situation in the city, they were told that, excluding Foreign Minister Peres' letter on Jerusalem, Israel is trying to undermine the Palestinian status in the city. At the same time, they denied claims that Orient House has become a colony of the autonomy directorate.

Are you effectively running the autonomy from these offices in East Jerusalem?

[Faysal al-Husayni] *No, no, no, not at all.*

[Sherzer] Despite the Israeli warnings that it might shut down Orient House and other Palestinian institutions, al-Husayni and his colleagues are determined to strengthen their status in the city. In a meeting at Orient House last night, the participants decided to recommend that a special fund be set up to support the Palestinian status in the city, mainly through constructing residential buildings on waqf-owned land. Al-Husayni seeks to establish a special council on Jerusalem affairs and will devote himself to this issue alone. It was further declared that institutions such as this represent all of the Palestinians, not only the residents of Jerusalem.

[Mahdi 'Abd-al-Hadi] *No Palestinian National Authority can maintain its credibility, its future, and its—what you call it—law and order position without its linkage to Jerusalem. And you cannot close the file of Jerusalem by telling us: this institution yes, this maybe, and this is questionable. It is not a question of institution. It is a question of life and death for us.* [end recording]

Union of Palestinian Contractors Formed

LD0306215494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Excerpts] The formation of the Union of Palestinian Contractors [Ittihad al-Muqawilin al-'Arab] was

announced in Tunis yesterday, with its main headquarters in Jerusalem. During its meetings, which were held in Tunis over the last two days, the union's constituent conference elected the union's council, which includes 15 members, and appointed five advisers to the council.

In a final statement issued after its meetings, the conference stressed the need to organize Palestinian contractors in the service of the process of development and construction in the liberated Palestinian territories. The statement reads:

The new situation which emerged after the peace agreement and the declaration of the national Palestinian authority on the land of Palestine has brought a new reality to the Palestinian people and its economic activities, including Palestinian enterprises which were disbanded into a number of unions and associations in and out of the homeland because of occupation circumstances and the division of the Palestinian land. [passage omitted]

The constituent conference of the Union of Palestinian Contractors was held 30 May-1 June 1944 in Tunis, under the chairmanship of the president of the state of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat. The conference was attended by a number of contractors from inside and outside the homeland, a number of guests and observers from several countries and international establishments, a number of ambassadors in Tunis and representatives of a number of banks and financial and development establishments. [passage omitted]

Palestinian contractors taking part in the conference discussed the issues on the agenda. The issues are as follows:

1. The statute of the Union of Palestinian Contractors
2. Directives on categorization of contractors
3. Public tender system and related directives
4. General conditions for civil works contracts and a unified contract between the owner and the contractor

After extensive discussions of the articles of the draft rules, regulations and directives, the conference endorsed them and recommended their submission to the head and members of the National Authority Council for approval.

The consitutent conference approved the merger of all previous unions and private associations of contractors in the new union, which will represent all Palestinian contractors inside and outside the homeland, and urged them all to join.

The conference announced the formation of the Union of Palestinian Contractors on 1 June 1994, with Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine, as its main headquarters. The union will have branches in a number of Palestinian towns in accordance with the council's decision.

The union's council is composed of 15 members: Dawud al-Zir as president of the union; Muhamad Hijazi and Bashir Dallul as vice presidents; Khalid Abu 'Isha, Mu'ayad Rif'at al-Madi, Hashim Abu Sha'ban, 'Umar Abu al-'Arayis, Walid al-Ahmad, Safwat Mushtaha, Samih al-Tubaylah, Wa'il Abu Laylah, Lutfi Rizq, Mahir al-Tawil, Riyad al-Sha'ir, and George Rizq as members. The following have been appointed as advisers to the council:

Yusuf al-Hayik, Salman Abu Sittah, Khalil al-Sarraf, 'Umar Muhana, and 'Adil Zahran. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Cables IUJ Conference in Jerusalem

LD0406195394 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Excerpts] President Yasir 'Arafat [Abu-'Ammar] today sent a cable of support to the participants in the conference of the International Union of Journalists [IUJ] convened since yesterday at the National Hotel in occupied Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Brother President Abu-'Ammar said that the press has never played such an important role in an international issue such as the role it has played in the Palestinian cause and the Middle East crisis over the last three decades. This was due to the region's sensitivity and importance compared with other parts of the world and the peoples of the world, a factor that explains the need to deal with the peace process in objectivity and justice, so as to reach a just solution guaranteeing our people's inalienable rights, freedom and independence.

President 'Arafat called on the conferees to support the peace process and our people's efforts to build their national institutions, economic structure and infrastructure so that they can feel and enjoy the fruits of peace and look forward to a promising future in which stability, security and cooperation prevails between all the countries and peoples of the Middle East.

'Arafat stressed that the Palestinian National Authority, which was formed a few days ago to manage our people's affairs until free and open general elections are held, is committed to its obligations regarding peace and the freedom of the individual, the freedom of thought, the freedom of work and the freedom of the press for the sake of a real interaction in the open Palestinian society. [passage omitted]

It is worth mentioning that this conference, the first of its kind to be held in Jerusalem, will be held over three days at the invitation of the League of Arab Journalists and the International Journalists' Union to discuss the challenges facing Palestinian journalists. A number of journalists are unable to attend because of the closure of Jerusalem. Journalists also suffer from imprisonment, beatings and bans as occupation authorities still think with a mentality of occupation and not one of neighborliness; the proof is the closure of Jericho and Gaza and Jerusalem, brother Sai'd 'Uraykat said. Furthermore there are the increasing practices of the settlers and the army against our people.

Islamic Jihad Leader Rejects Role in Authority

JN0706181594 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 7 Jun 94 p 1

[By Muhammad Salamah]

[Text] Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, has said that he has turned down an offer by President Yasir 'Arafat to accompany him to Jericho, viewing such a trip as accepting Israel's domination.

Asked by AKHIR KHABAR if he was offered a part in the Palestinian National Authority, Shaykh al-Tamimi said that President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] had contacted several Palestinian figures, including his son, Nadir al-Tamimi, offering them the portfolio of the Religious Affairs Ministry. Nadir, he said, is now in Tunis.

Shaykh al-Tamimi added: This is a personal contact rather than coordination between the Palestinian leadership and the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis.

Asked whether Dr. Nadir has agreed to participate in the Palestinian Authority, Shaykh al-Tamimi said: Although this is a personal affair, I oppose it because such participation in principle means bargaining. Therefore, I urge Nadir to reject it.

He added: If the self-rule area is expanded to include the whole West Bank, I will agree to enter these territories to establish an Islamic opposition party, but not to participate in the Palestinian Authority.

Jihad Leader Accuses Palestinian Forces of 'Blackmail'

PM0706090094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jun 94 p5

[Unattributed report: "Al-Shaqaqi: Arrest of 'Jihad' Members Will Redouble Its Operations Against the Occupation"]

[Text] Damascus, AL-HAYAH —Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the "Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine," has stated that he held "indirect contacts" with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO leadership for the release of Jihad member Hani 'Abid who had been detained by the Palestinian police. He emphasized that the participation of the other Palestinian forces in the autonomy elections was "a good reason for us not to participate in them."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, al-Shaqaqi said that the military operations carried out by the "Islamic Mujahidin Forces" (QSM) [al-quwa al-islamiyah al-mujahidah] attached to the Movement "demonstrated that the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza was not real, that Israeli sovereignty is still there, and that the authority in the Palestinian administration is Israel."

He said that, in his view, "the Palestinian security forces abducted Hani 'Abid to use him as a political hostage to make us stop our jihad operations." He added that he told the PLO leadership and President 'Arafat "indirectly that the arrest of our brothers would escalate military action against the occupation to prove to them (the PLO leadership) that they cannot blackmail us by detaining one of our brothers in the Movement." He also said that as long as long as 'Abid remains in detention "we will escalate military action, and (his continued detention) will not be a reason to stop (military action) as they hope. We will redouble our operations against the occupation until they convince us that the occupation has come to an end and that there is no Israeli presence in Gaza."

Asked why they have not been killing Palestinian "agents" or "collaborators" as the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has been doing, al-Shaqaqi said: "We are extremely careful regarding the question of collaborators. The cases where the Jihad Movement killed collaborators were clear and flagrantly self-confessed. We do not act on mere suspicion or personal interrogation." He ruled out the possibility of the Jihad Movement killing "collaborators because the Palestinian police force is there and that matter is ultimately left to it."

After he reaffirmed his "absolute refusal to participate in the autonomy elections," AL-HAYAH remarked that other parties have contacted 'Arafat and are willing to do so. He replied: "That is a very good reason for us not to participate. Some, even a small minority, should uphold what is right, say no to this game loud and clear, and be the people's conscience."

Shin Bet Uncovers Attempt To Assassinate Al-Rujub

TA0706181794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] The Shin Bet several days ago uncovered an assassination attempt against Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian preventive security service. Al-Rujub, who was in Tulkarm that day, was informed he had better cancel a planned visit to Nabulus because he can expect an unpleasant surprise there.

The tension between the Palestinian police and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza and Jericho autonomy areas is increasing.

IDF Soldiers Wound Five in Gaza Strip

TA0806075694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Five Palestinians were wounded last night in Rafah by Israeli soldiers, who launched a search inside the autonomous area. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the soldiers thought they were under fire, but the shooting

was in fact from a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] group that was firing in the air to celebrate the release of one of their members from the Qezi'ot prison. The Palestinian police are investigating the incident.

In Jericho, a Palestinian resident was lightly wounded yesterday when Palestinian police opened fire. The victim reportedly drove through a police roadblock without stopping.

In Gaza, the Palestinian police arrested four members of the Fatah Hawks for shooting and wounding six residents of the Tuffah neighborhood, one of them seriously and two others moderately. The Qol Yisra'el reporter says the Fatah Hawks tried to arrest a car thief, claiming they were from the Palestinian security service. The driver put up a fight and a shooting broke out. The four Hawks were arrested and their guns were confiscated.

In another incident, the Palestinian police demolished a house in the Rimal area that had been built illegally on public land.

An Israeli was lightly injured last night on the Trans-Samaria Highway when his car was stoned near the Arab village of Mashah.

Israel Says Palestinian Radio Be Sited in Jericho

NC0506115994 Paris AFP in English 0854 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Jerusalem, June 5 (AFP)—Israel told the Palestinian Authority on Sunday [5 June] they must set up their radio station in the autonomous enclave of Jericho and not in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah as planned.

The head of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation [PBC], Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, told AFP he had asked for an official meeting after the Israelis notified him of their decision.

The PBC had intended to site the studios in Ramallah where a pre-1967 transmitter and radio masts are being renovated.

"Now we cannot have the studios in Ramallah," Abu-'Ayyash said. The town is not part of the autonomous areas.

"They have to be in Jericho or Gaza, only the transmission will be in Ramallah.

"We asked for a meeting to discuss this officially. We prefer to have the studios in Ramallah," he stressed.

However the Palestinians had managed to get radio equipment donated by Germany out of Israeli customs without paying duty after a three-week battle, Abu-'Ayyash said.

The sound and editing equipment was intended first for training new staff, he said.

The Palestinians hope to launch a radio service in July following the start of autonomy in Jericho and the Gaza Strip last month and the PBC has taken on a full-time staff of 17.

They also have plans for a television channel, but that will take longer to set up, Abu-'Ayyash said.

Algeria

Daily Reports Gunmen Kill 3, Injure 3 Others

NC0806102994 Paris AFP in English 0924 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Algiers, June 8 (AFP)—Gunmen shot dead three people as they tried to prevent a car bomb attack against a hotel in an Algiers suburb, before the blast seriously wounded three others, the EL WATAN daily reported Wednesday [8 June].

The three men gunned down were all guests at the El Andalous hotel in the Eucalyptus district, a Moslem fundamentalist bastion of the capital, which was targetted on Monday night.

The bomb placed in the boot of the vehicle then exploded, badly injuring three people and causing major damage, the newspaper reported.

The blast was the third car bomb attack since Islamic extremists began a guerrilla war against the Algerian authorities early in 1992 and subsequently began targetting civilians as part of their campaign.

More than 3,000 people are estimated to have been killed in battles between armed gangs and security forces and in terrorist attacks, which began after the army in January 1992 cancelled a general election the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.

Imam, Religious Teacher Killed in Skikda, Tlemcen

LD0706224894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] The Ministry of Religious Affairs today announced the assassination of Ibrahim Bouneb Mohamed, 58, an imam and teacher in Skikda Province, and Mr. Ahmed Ferah, 76, the shaykh of a Koranic school at a mosque in Tlemcen Province.

Newspaper Journalist Killed in Algiers

NC0706163294 Paris AFP in English 1453 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Algiers, June 7 (AFP)—Suspected Muslim extremists killed another Algerian journalist Tuesday [7 June] amid an escalation of attacks on civil servants, doctors and intellectuals as part of a fundamentalist campaign for power.

The security services announced that Cherquit Ferhat of the government daily El Moudjahid was shot dead in central Algiers, but gave no further details immediately. [passage omitted]

National Radio Technician Assassinated

LD0706194294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] A statement from the security authorities announces today the assassination of Hicham Guenifi, a national radio technician trainee. The source did not give any further details on the circumstances of the assassination.

Egypt

Government Rejects Iraqi Request for Bilateral Ties

NC0806075394 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Jun 94 p 7

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources have told AL-SHA'B that while taking part in the conference of nonaligned countries' foreign ministers, Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and asked Egypt to play a role in unifying the Arab fold, defining the elements of pan-Arab security, overlooking the events of the past, and developing bilateral ties between Egypt and Iraq.

The sources said the Iraqi foreign minister requested the reinstatement of the joint action committees for cooperation between Egypt and Iraq in all economic, social, and cultural fields and stressed Iraq's desire to mend its political relations with other Arab countries. He also called for an urgent Arab move led by Egypt to unify the Arab fold and clear the Arab air.

The Iraqi foreign minister affirmed his country's readiness for a serious contribution in the future to any measures led by Egypt or the Arab League to clear the atmosphere and plan for a successful Arab summit.

The sources added that Egypt told Iraq of the need to settle bilateral problems with Kuwait, especially the Kuwaiti prisoners, and to agree on a new method governing inter-Arab relations in the coming stage.

AL-SHA'B learned that Egypt turned down an Iraqi plan to develop bilateral ties between the two countries through ministerial committees and that Egypt postponed discussion of any issues concerning bilateral cooperation to a later stage.

UN Envoy Ibrahimi Arrives in Cairo En Route to Yemen

NC0706180894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the UN envoy to Yemen, arrived in Cairo today from Geneva after meeting with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who is currently in Geneva to discuss the Yemeni problem. Ibrahimi will also discuss the events in Yemen with Egyptian officials. He will travel to Yemen afterward, in an attempt to convince the two sides to the conflict to adhere to the Security Council resolution issued last week that called for an immediate halt to the fighting in Yemen.

Yemen's al-'Attas, Delegation Depart 7 Jun

NC0706114294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, Aden's recently appointed prime minister, and his delegation left Cairo this afternoon, after a two-day visit to Egypt.

While in Cairo, al-'Attas held talks with a number of Egyptian officials on the current situation in Yemen.

Foreign Minister Musa Urges Cease-fire in Yemen

NC0706160894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, 7 Jun (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said if the Yemenis are talking about unity, their primary objective should be to preserve vital resources and facilities in Yemen.

In press statements he made in Tunis today on developments in Yemen, 'Amr Musa added that the unity that was established based on the agreement of both sides cannot be imposed by force. The various parties must show actual commitment to the Security Council resolution on the Yemeni crisis. If the fighting continues, however, it will destroy all of Yemen.

'Amr Musa clarified that adherence to the cease-fire in Yemen is not mere talk; it should be respected in word and deed. He said the continued fighting and strikes against installations, despite declarations that both parties adhere to the cease-fire, means they reject the Security Council resolution.

Answering a question on the statement the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers issued the day before yesterday on events in Yemen, 'Amr Musa said the statement contains important results and expresses the frustration with events in Yemen. He added that it was only natural to hold a GCC meeting, because the situation in Yemen cannot be ignored and left the way it is.

Musa affirmed that the solution to the crisis in Yemen is respect for the Security Council resolution and the cease-fire in Yemen. Moreover, the forces must be separated from each other and dialogue between the various parties must start.

Opposition Parties Demand More Consultations

NC0806102694 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Jun 94 p 7

[Text] The leaders of the Wafd, National Progressive Unionist Grouping, and the Liberal parties have issued the following statement explaining their stand on the formation of a committee to prepare for the national dialogue:

The leaders of the parties signed this statement;

Out of their concern to continue the national dialogue on a sound and correct basis capable of achieving the hopes that the Egyptian masses have pinned on it;

Out of their commitment to the homeland's interests that require us to work together toward a real understanding established on the basis of free and equal expression and on the basis of the various political forces' direct and equal participation in setting out its agenda, basis, and the rules that govern it;

While noting that the committee to prepare for the national dialogue was not formed in the right manner; both in form—as the committee was imposed by one party without consultations—and in substance—as the majority of the committee members were chosen from the ranks of the ruling party [National Democratic Party];

While noting that the choice of the rapporteur was successful, and despite our respect for the rapporteur, we believe that it would have been better if consultations were held on the choice of the rapporteur, his role, whether he is the chairman of the conferees, their sole spokesman, or whether he is just the organizer of the sessions;

While reviewing the decision of the Wafd and the Democratic Nasirite parties not to participate in the dialogue so as to record their objections, most of which can be said to be objective and should be taken into account;

They believe that it is necessary to review the issue and to attempt to try to reach a common understanding over the committee's form and composition, the rapporteur and his role, the system of expressing views, and the various parties' right to voice their opinions. This might make it incumbent upon us all to participate directly in a common and constant dialogue until we reach an understanding that will ensure that the national dialogue will start properly and achieve equality and which can achieve the desired outcome.

Hence, the signatories of this appeal call on all the parties to seek to hold collective and bilateral dialogues with the aim of reaching a common agreement before the start of the national dialogue committee's sessions.

There is a period of time between today and 12 June—the date set for the committee's second session—during which an attempt can be made to achieve an understanding on the needed bases and avoid the mistakes which have invoked our observations. While these consultations require more time, we believe there is a need to give them ample opportunity for unifying our views and uniting all the political forces within the framework of the national dialogue for the sake of achieving the desired national interest. Hence, being committed to a fixed date might not be necessary. What is necessary is to find an ample opportunity for real consultations and for reaching new agreements.

Our objective from all this is the homeland's interest and ensuring the success of the dialogue on a basis that achieves equality and sufficient respect for all its parties.

God is our witness.

Security Officials Deny Report on Mosque Clash

NC0806065694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—A responsible security official has denied a report by a news agency on a recent clash in the town of Akhmim in Suhaj Governorate between worshipers at al-Sahabah Mosque and a number of extremist elements.

The source said this report is totally false. There is no truth in it, since no confrontation or clashes of any kind took place at all, as the agency claimed.

According to the news agency report, six persons, including two extremists, were injured at al-Sahabah Mosque in Akhmim during a confrontation between worshipers and elements described as terrorist.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader on Violence, Dialogue

NC0406200794 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 30 May 94 p 10

[Report by 'Abdallah Kamal]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Mustafa Mashhur, the strong man in the Muslim Brotherhood, denies any link between the group and violence. In an interview with ROSE AL-YUSUF, he said: Our method since we came out of prison has been not to participate in any incident. Our connection with any extremist group has not been proven, from Shaykh al-Dhahabi [killed by the Repudiation and Renunciation group], the Military Technical School incidents, the assassination of al-Sadat, to the Asyut incidents. We in fact have issued several statements criticizing violence.

[ROSE AL-YUSUF] The repentant al-Shawqiyun Group leader has accused you of supporting terrorism with money.

[Mashhur] I have no knowledge of that. Let them investigate. If it is proven that Ahmad 'Ubayd (the man named by 'Adil 'Abd-al- Baqi in his confessions) or any one else has done so, let them bring them to account. But the Muslim Brotherhood has nothing to do with this.

[ROSE AL-YUSUF] Don't you have any connection with Ahmad 'Ubayd?

[Mashhur] I mean that we have nothing to do with the money, and Ahmad 'Ubayd has not informed us that he gave money.

[ROSE AL-YUSUF] Does the Muslim Brotherhood intend to escalate the situation and declare civil disobedience in the professional unions?

[Mashhur] Our method is moderation, and not violence, capitulation, and weakness. We are carrying out a message. This is the right of every citizen. It is my right to say that Islam is the solution, just as others say socialism is the solution. Actually, we exist legally, but it is they [the government] who do not want to recognize us.

[ROSE AL-YUSUF] Can any professional union undertake any measure without your decision?

[Mashhur] Yes. We only give general guidance and do not interfere in all matters.

We are not against dialogue with the officials. It is they who are against dialogue with us. Our work is done in the open. There is no secret organization, as some people claim.

[ROSE AL-YUSUF] If a dialogue takes place, what are the issues on its agenda?

[Mashhur] Emissaries from Al-Ahram Research Center came to see us. We said we do not object to dialogue, provided the government allows political rights to the people, a party, the publication of a paper, and free elections.

[ROSE AL-YUSUF] So what is required to end the confrontation is a party and a newspaper.

[Mashhur] What I mean is freedom of expression—instead of licensing parties that have no assets and claiming that the establishment of a Muslim Brotherhood party will lead to sectarian strife. Our relations with the Copts since the time of al-Banna have been good.

[ROSE AL-YUSUF] Is there an intention to put up candidates in the next elections?

[Mashhur] Of course, unless they prevent us.

[ROSE AL-YUSUF] Some people say that the Labor Party has sacrificed the Muslim Brotherhood in order to attend the National dialogue meetings.

[Mashhur] I do not think this is correct. The alliance between us continues. [passage omitted]

'Strain' in Government-Brotherhood Relations

NC0806054594 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 2-8 Jun 94 p 11

[Report by Wadi' Kirulus]

[Text] For years the government has turned a blind eye to the political and social activities of the Muslim Brotherhood, despite being outlawed since 1954. But

during the past few weeks, there have been increasing signs of a strain in the Brotherhood's relationship with the government.

The first sign was an anti-government demonstration, in protest at the death in police custody of a lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani, staged by members of the Brotherhood-controlled Bar Association and which police dispersed immediately. Thirty-six lawyers were arrested.

A few days later, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, a prominent Islamic scholar, was instructed by security authorities not to deliver a sermon during prayers marking 'Id al-Adha at the Mustafa Mahmud mosque in Muhandisin. Al-Ghazali was later received by Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, in what was viewed as a conciliatory gesture.

Around the same time, 84-year-old Shaykh Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, the supreme guide of the Brotherhood, was summoned for questioning by prosecution authorities after leaflets bearing his name were seized during the 'Id prayers. The ailing Shaykh did not comply and the order was subsequently cancelled.

On Monday, Al-Alfi announced that "a group of Brotherhood members have been arrested for anti-state activity." The newspaper AL- SHA'B, mouthpiece of the Islamist-oriented Labour Party, put their number at eight and said their arrest was "part of the escalating government campaign against the Brotherhood." The eight, who include Ibrahim Sharaf, the private secretary of the supreme guide, were remanded in custody for 15 days, the newspaper said.

Mustafa Mashhur, a deputy of the supreme guide, told AL-AHRAM WEEKLY he was surprised by the government's actions because "we are exercising all our activities, whether in the People's Assembly or in professional syndicates or teachers' cubs, within the framework of the constitution and under the umbrella of the law." He said the Brotherhood has not been involved in any act of violence since it resurfaced during the 1970s. "We even condemned such acts," he said.

The reason for the clampdown, Mashhur said, could be the anti- government slogans shouted by lawyers during their demonstration. But Mashhur denied that those lawyers were Brotherhood members.

Another reason, Mashhur said, could be the government's intention to deny the Brotherhood the right to establish a political party. "They think that if we have an Islamic party, the Copts will demand a party of their own and this will lead to civil strife. But this is not true."

Despite the latest arrests, the Brotherhood is carrying on with its normal activities and "will not be involved in any escalation, even if the government steps up its measures," Mashhur said.

'Isam al-'Aryan, secretary-general of the Doctors Union and a leading member of the Brotherhood, said he was not worried by the latest arrests because "this is a pattern to which previous governments resorted on previous occasions." The reason for the clampdown, he said, could be a government attempt to bar the Brotherhood from the national dialogue or from parliamentary elections scheduled for next year.

Muhammad Salim al-'Awwa, a lawyer described as a representative of the moderate Islamic trend, said he was surprised by recent events because the Brotherhood has distributed leaflets for years and they were never confiscated and the supreme guide was never summoned for questioning. He described the government's actions as a "political and religious mistake" because the Brotherhood is a "strong political and religious supporter of the constitutional system."

Political analyst Muhammad Sid-Ahmad believes the motive behind the government clampdown is to exclude the Brotherhood from the national dialogue. "There are two reasons for this. First, the government is not prepared to recognise it to prevent the emergence of an Islamic party, then a Christian party etc. The second reason is the government's wish to maintain the legitimacy of the dialogue" by excluding illegal organisations, he said. But Sid-Ahmad believes the Brotherhood will be indirectly represented at the dialogue via Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Labour Party.

Another political analyst, Tagammu [National Progressive Unionist Grouping] secretary-general Rif'at al-Sa'id, who keeps a close watch on the Islamist movement, said the government has tolerated the Brotherhood for years because it considered it harmless but was waking up to its "danger".

"There is no moderation in the Islamist current. The Brotherhood is an extremist organisation that calls for the establishment of an Islamic state. The violent history of the Brotherhood speaks for itself," al-Sa'id added.

The Brotherhood instigated the lawyers' demonstration to cover up for "severe financial malpractices" by the Bar Association's Council, he continued. The demonstration as well as televised statements by repentant terrorist 'Adil 'Abd-al-Baqi, implicating the Brotherhood in acts of terrorism, made the government wake up to the "danger" of the Brotherhood, he commented.

Asked if the Brotherhood was expected to retaliate for the government clampdown, Al-Sa'id replied negatively. "On the contrary, they will kneel down in order to be accepted."

Libya

U.S. Accusations on Nuclear Activities Rejected

LD0706143194 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Statement issued by the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation; date not given]

[Text] The U.S. assistant secretary of state has been quoted expressing his country's concern over the nuclear activities of a number of states, among which he mentioned the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation would like to remind the American official of the remarks made by the Directer of the International Atomic Energy Agency while visiting the Great Jamahiriyah at the head of a team of the agency's experts in January 1993 confirming what we have repeatedly announced and affirmed about Libya's noninterest in possessing weapons of mass destruction This prompted it to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and to participate in all conferences seeking to ban the use or the threat to use weapons of mass destruction.

What has been said by the assistant secretary of state irrefutably confirms that nobody is able to believe the claims of the United States and this therefore erodes its credibility before the peoples of the world. Instead of warning the Great Jamahiriyah, this official should have referred to his country's measures against the Zionist entity which refuses to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Moreover, western sources friendly to that entity confirm its possession of nuclear warheads. Instead of warning it, the United States is supplying it with means to enable it to intimidate the states of the region by the threat of using those weapons against them.

The tone of warning and intimidation is no longer useful against the Great Jamahiriyah. American officials spare no opportunity to include its name whenever they circulate false and unfounded accusations.

Mauritania

Defecting UFD Member Forms New Party

AB0406205394 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] The main opposition Union of Democratic Forces [UFD] lost several of its members yesterday. Some of them slammed the door and decided to form another political organization, called the Movement of Independent Democrats [MDI]. (Abel-aid Ould Kebde), the new party's leader, explains here to Salem Meshbouh Salem the reasons for his decision to pull out of the UFD:

[Begin recording] [(Kebde)] We are of the view that the UFD no longer provides us leadership, because it now serves merely as a shock absorber that enabled the government to carry out painfulessly, under the most ideal political and social conditions, reforms which in the final analysis were not reforms at all—and I think the present frustrations of the independent press clearly show to what extent authoritarianism has surged back. All in all, when one takes stock of the democratization process, not much is left.

[Salem] Does this mean that the other movements which have supported you so far—the Party for Liberty, Equality, and Justice and the [word indistinct] movement—have also pulled out?

[(Kebde)] I think you are aware that we are right at the beginning of this process, and I understand that consultations between these two movements are under way. It appears that within the next 24 to 48 hours they will announce their decisions—which could be to remain with the UFD. As I said, we are at the beginning of a process which could in due course involve other forces which were originally outside the present UFD, or informal forces formerly within that organization. I do not think it is possible to predict what is likely to happen next. [end recording]

Morocco

Filali Presents New Government List to King

LD0706173194 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpt] King Hassan II received this afternoon at the throne hall of Rabat Royal Palace Mr. Abdellatif Filali, who was appointed by His Majesty as prime minister and minister for foreign affairs and cooperation.

Mr. Abdellatif Filali presented to His Majesty members of the government, who are:

Minister of State—Moulay Ahmed Alaoui
Minister of State for the Interior and Information—Driss Basri
Minister of Justice—Mohamed Drissi M'chichi
Minister for Public Health—Dr. Abderrahim Harrouchi
Minister for Finance—Mohamed Sagou
Minister for National Education—Mohamed Knidri
Minister for Ocean Fisheries & Merchant Marine—Mustapha Sahil
Minister for Public Works, Vocational and Cadres Training—Mohamed Hassad
Minister for Transportation—Rachid Ghazouani
Minister for Post and Telecommunications—Abdessalam Ahizoun
Minister for Agriculture and Agricultural Investment—Abdelaziz Meziane Belfkih
Minister for Sports and Youth—Moulay Driss Alaoui M'Daghri
Minister for Trade and Industry—Driss Jattou
Minister of Waqf and Islamic Affairs—Abdelkebir Alaoui M'Daghri
Minister for Employment and Social Affairs—Rafik Haddaoui
Minister for Energy and Mines—Abdellatif Guerraoui
Minister for Cultural Affairs—Mohamed Allal Si Nasser
Minister for Housing—Driss Toulali
Minister for External Trade, External Investments and Handicraft—Mourad Cherif
Minister for Tourism—Serge Berdugo

Secretary General for the Government—Abdessadek Rabie
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of Administrative Affairs—Aziz Ahasbi
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister—Abderrahman Soubai
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of Moroccan Community living abroad—Ahmed Ouardi
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of relations with the House of Representatives—Mohamed Motassem
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister for Promotion of the Economy—Omar Kabbaj
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister for Human Rights—Omar Azziman
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister for Privatization and State Installations—Abderrahmane Saidi
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation—Taieb Fassi Fihri
Deputy Secretary of State to the Minister of State for the Interior for Environmental Protection—Chawki Sarghini [passage omitted]

USFP Rejects Participation in Filali Government

LD0706133894 Rabat MAP in English 1244 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, June 07 (MAP)—The Central Committee of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP/opposition) discarded the possibility for the party to participate in the government. The committee, which held a meeting over the weekend to discuss the political report presented by the assistant first secretary of the party Mohamed el-Yazghi, renewed attachment to the stands it explained in the statement adopted last December saying the December statement remains the basic platform for the USFP political action as there are no new data likely to dictate a change of these stands.

The committee which examined the latest political developments in light of the appointment of Abdellatif Filali as prime minister and the latter's consultations with political parties, took note of some of Filali's laudable commitments and intentions but saw no sign of a genuine change. The committee therefore discards the possibility to participate in the government.

The political report that was run Monday by the USFP daily 'AL ITTIHAD AL ICHTIRAKI' on the other hand stressed the need to usher in political and constitutional reforms and pointed out that the credibility of any government is intrinsically linked to the genuine practice of democracy and the genuine respect of human rights.

The report also deemed it necessary for the government to carry on social dialog to reach solutions to pending problems.

The central committee of another opposition party, the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS), held an extraordinary meeting Sunday during which the PPS secretary general informed the committee members on the consultations held by Filali with Moroccan political parties.

Sudan

Government Urges Yemenis To Respect Cease-Fire

EA0706191694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union and the speaker of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA], has called on the brothers in Yemen to respect the cease-fire resolution to stop the bloodshed and to save the resources of the sons of Yemen. Mr. Khalifah expressed hope that the Yemenis will embark on an objective dialogue to arrive at a lasting solution to the crisis and an agreement acceptable to all the brothers in order to consolidate stability in their country and work toward reconstruction and development.

Khalifah pointed out that the Arab homeland, which has been observing the strife in Yemen, aspired to see the role of a strong and united Yemen in supporting the march of the Arab and Islamic nations, in light of the stability which would be achieved by its sons.

The chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union called on the Arab parliamentarians to direct all their efforts towards containing the crisis, overcoming its negative effects, and supporting the peace and reconstruction efforts. He appealed to the brothers in Yemen on the need to heed the voice of reason and wisdom, for which they had been renowned, and to deny the opportunity to anyone intending to ambush the Arab and Islamic nation, endeavoring to squander its resources and destroy its unity.

Ministry Supports Yemeni Constitutional Legitimacy

EA0706205094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Sudan welcomes the visit of U.S. President Bill Clinton's special envoy. [passage omitted] On the current situation in Yemen, the [acting] director of the Political Department in the Foreign Ministry stressed Sudan's stand in favor of constitutional legitimacy in Yemen. He expressed hope that the brothers in Yemen will stop the fighting in order to stop bloodshed. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Criticizes YSP Cease-Fire Violations

JN0706182294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has visited the 48 Revolution Camp. He was received by the brother commander of the camp, officers, and troops. They welcomed the brother leader president and expressed their happiness over the visit, which embodies the leader's eagerness to observe the situation of the sons of the valiant Armed Forces and take care of them. They also expressed their high readiness to perform the national duty of defending unity and protecting constitutional legitimacy, as well as protecting the homeland's achievements and gains.

During his visit, the brother leader president got acquainted with the qualification and training operations in the camp. He spoke to the troops, paying tribute to the high morale of the personnel of our valiant Armed Forces, which have embodied—by championing the people's will of unity and protecting constitutional legitimacy—the true belonging to the homeland and the deep faith in God, the homeland, the revolution, and the unity.

He added: Our Armed Forces have proven throughout all stages that they are the invulnerable shield of the homeland, the property of the people, and a tool to protect their achievements, security, and stability. The heroes in our Armed Forces have championed the Yemeni revolutions of 26 September and 14 October. Today, they are valiantly championing unity and are protecting it from all the challenges imposed by the gang of rebellion and secession that drove the homeland to war to implement its criminal secessionist scheme for a handful of filthy money and for the sake of its narrow selfish interests.

The brother leader president noted that the Yemeni homeland is passing through an important, decisive turning point to formulate a new era in light of the fortification of its unity and embodying the national aspirations to build a new Yemen on the basis of justice, democracy, comprehensive developments, respect for human rights, and a state of law and order and modern institutions.

The brother leader and supreme commander also asserted that the sons of our people and their Armed Forces have never refrained from making precious sacrifices to protect and safeguard unity. Unity is a great objective for which the free men of the sons of our people have struggled until it was achieved in a historic, bright action. Today, they will not show reluctance to pursue struggle and make sacrifices in order to face the criminal, secessionist gang that is trying to harm unity and set the clock back to the situation that prevailed prior to 22 May 1990. He noted that the epochs of separation have gone and will never return and that Yemen's strength and prosperity lie in unity, noting that without unity, there is no future for Yemen, because it is the source of pride, stability, and progress.

The brother president praised our Yemeni people's broad-based support for their brothers and sons in the Armed Forces in the battle to protect unity and democracy and defend constitutional legitimacy. He said this excellent national cohesion between our people and Armed Forces, the forces of unity and legitimacy, in various parts of the Yemeni homeland embodies the sincerity of national affiliation and feelings of national responsibility. He appealed for further national cohesion among the masses, particularly among the political forces and prominent figures on the national arena, to confront the secessionist scheme, which was hatched by the secessionist gang led by traitor and agent al-Bid and his clique, who sold themselves cheaply and wanted to push the homeland into the furnace of destruction in order to achieve their selfish goals.

The brother president noted the cease-fire violation by the gang of apostasy and secession. He said the Armed Forces have announced that they will abide by the resolution as of 2400 yesterday in implementation of the UN Security Council resolution. That gang, he said, continued its aggressions and provocations against our Armed Forces and launched air raids against the positions of our Armed Forces on all axes at the time when our Armed Forces, the forces of unity and legitimacy, were abiding in full by the cease-fire resolution. He explained that the rebellious secessionist gang does not respect any agreements or conventions; violates all agreements and treaties with its criminal conduct and conspiratorial mentality; and does not fear God or care about the homeland.

The leader president urged the brother officers, NCO's, and soldiers to display further discipline and to deal well with the citizens and to offer them all cooperation and care, and to treat well their brothers who were deceived by the secessionist gang when they join or surrender to the forces of unity and legitimacy. He said: Those are your brothers and comrades in arms. He noted the wrong indoctrination and deceptive propaganda the secessionist gang is trying to promote among the deceived ones against their brothers and comrades in arms in the Armed Forces and against all citizens in general.

He called again on the remaining deceived brothers to quickly join the ranks of unity and legitimacy and to take advantage of the general amnesty law. He said they will be received and treated very well and will get all of their rights just like their colleagues in the Yemeni Armed Forces.

Salih: No Dialogue With YSP 'Secessionist Elements'

JN0806133394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has stressed that our country welcomes UN Security Council Resolution No. 924 and all its article. He said our country has expressed readiness to cooperate with international efforts to resolve the crisis in our country. Those remarks were made during a news conference held by the brother president at noon today. The news conference was attended by correspondents of Arab and international news agencies and print and electronic news media. The brother president explained said that no dialogue is possible with the secessionist elements in the command of the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP], but with YSP unionist elements. He explained that some unionist elements are helpless and controlled by the secessionist elements. As soon as the crisis is over, he explained, those unionist elements will come out and make their stands public.

The brother president also noted that the entry of the legitimate forces into Aden will be a political decision. He said this is in order to avoid further material and human losses, preserve human lives in Aden, and for humanitarian reasons.

The brother president noted that the future of the genuine Yemeni state will be prosperous and developed, based on the state's institutions, represented by the legislative authority, and on modern and developed laws regulating the activities of the new state, such as the local government law, which gives wide authorities to governorates, thus easing centralization. At the same time, he stressed that promises for applying local government jurisdiction will be honored. This is unlike the behavior of some YSP leaders, who falsely raised the slogan of giving power to local governments and demanded that strict centralization be eased and authorities be granted to local government.

The brother president stressed that the local government law will be applied after order is restored and constitutional amendments are held.

The brother president explained that the YSP secessionist elements are demanding and appealing for a cease-fire at a time when their warplanes are launching raids on the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy on the entrances of Aden. Their appeals, he said, are only meant to draw the sympathy of foreign public opinion and to portray themselves as being wronged.

The brother president indicated that in light of the new world order, our country has welcomed UN Security Council Resolution No. 924. This is despite the fact that this resolution is considered interference in domestic affairs [words indistinct] cease-fire resolution unless [words indistinct] the legitimate forces.

Salih Telephone Conversati_n With Sector Commander Cited

PM0806131294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jun 94 p 1

["Text" of telephone conversation between President Salih and unidentified Tawr al-Bahah sector commander; place and date not given]

[Text] Salih: You are working like a tortoise, not mechanized units...the mission has to be accomplished quickly, because time is money...time is money...time is money.

Sector commander: We request a delay for a few hours, because the situation is a tortoise situation, and we are working to coordinate.

Salih: Accomplish the mission, there should be no stumbling blocks in your way...this is what is important, and do not listen to anything, because it is designed for the outside, not the inside.

Basindwah on Cease-Fire, UN Envoy's Visit

JN0706185694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Report by Ahmad Birru from Sanaa]

[Text] The first cease-fire in the one-month old Yemeni war lasted only six hours. Sanaa, which announced a cease-fire as of midnight last night, accused the southern forces of breaking the cease-fire six hours after it began, according to Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah, by southern Air Force raids against the legitimate forces inside Aden and the areas of Ma'rib and al-'Abr on the border. The bombing did not result in any damage to the oil installations. Gunboats also attacked the legitimate forces in (al-'Arish) near the Aden airport. Sanaa informed the United Nations, the Arab League, Washington, and ambassadors of other states of this violation and asked them not to support those who do not abide by international resolutions.

Addressing a news conference, the Yemeni minister asserted that Sanaa is still prepared to abide by the cease-fire but cannot prevent its forces from defending themselves and confronting any attack against them. Basindwah said that the forces of legitimacy are present in Aden and have the right to be in any part of Yemen. Basindwah did not explain if these forces has actually entered the city.

On the mission of UN envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, who is expected in Sanaa tomorrow, Basindwah voiced his confidence that Ibrahimi will deal with the legitimacy, which no longer needs to set preconditions because the facts are enough to prove that the constitutional legitimacy enjoys support in all parts of Yemen.

[Begin Basindwah recording] [Words indistinct] because we are confident that His Excellency Lakhdar Ibrahimi,

envoy of the UN secretary general, will deal with the constitutional legitimacy [word indistinct] in the Yemeni Republic. Of course we no longer need to set preconditions because the facts are enough to prove that constitutional legitimacy enjoys support everywhere in Yemen. The [word indistinct] by the UN Security Council resolution and the immediate cease-fire. This proves our good intentions toward international legitimacy and our concern to respect its resolutions. However, this does not mean that we will deal with the insurgents after the ruin, destruction, and bloodshed they caused. This also does not mean that we will accept that anyone comes here and talks with us or to us about dismembering Yemen. This is impossible. [end recording]

He also said that the role of the UN envoy will not be at the expense of Yemeni unity in any case and that we will not accept anyone coming here and talking with us about dismembering Yemen. He said Sanaa's announcement of an immediate cease-fire is proof of respect for international legitimacy and abidance by its resolutions.

Asked by Radio Monte Carlo if there is dialogue with certain Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders, the Yemeni minister said: There are YSP leaders even inside Sanaa and dialogue with them is being held. These leaders still hold their positions. There are also elements in Aden and Hadhramaut that we could not talk to in the past despite their readiness for dialogue.

Asked if there were definite contacts, the minister said that he could not reveal if there were contacts of this kind. He also refused to give any explanations on the external assistance that the southern leaders might have obtained or name the side extending this assistance to them.

Previews Talks With UN Envoy

NC0706193694 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Report by Hasan Zaytuni from Sanaa]

[Text] Hours after a cease-fire was declared, Sanaa accused southern forces of violating it and attacking government forces in Aden's al-'Arish District. The southern Air Force raided oil installations in the northern Ma'rib and al-'Abr areas to the northwest of Hadramaut.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah confirmed this information during a news conference he held at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry today. On the sidelines of the news conference, Basindwah spoke to the MBC, declaring that his country wishes to strengthen its relations with fraternal countries, particularly Saudi Arabia.

[Begin recording] [Basindwah] As an Arab citizen, not Yemeni foreign minister, I would like all the brothers to understand that their current position might not serve their future interests.

[Zaytuni] Minister, a UN envoy will shortly arrive in Sanaa. Does Sanaa have conditions to present to him? How will Sanaa deal with the UN envoy in light of current domestic and international developments connected with the Yemeni crisis?

[Basindwah] We welcome his excellency brother Lakhdar Ibrahimi as an envoy of the UN secretary general. We are confident of his competence, ability, wisdom, and long experience. I believe that any mediation effort must respect the need to preserve Yemeni unity. [end recording]

The Yemeni Foreign Ministry declared its willingness to work with the UN envoy without setting any conditions that might hinder his peace mission. The Ministry insisted, however, that the two principles of Yemeni unity and constitutional legality be maintained.

UN Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi Arrives in Sanaa

JN0806132594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon on a working visit to our country, during which he will meet with the brother officials in order to be closely acquainted with the current developments in the Republic of Yemen.

In an arrival statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the UN envoy expressed his great appreciation for the responsibility entrusted to him in order to carry out this historic mission. He added: I take pride in the UN secretary general's assignment of this mission to me and by the unanimous support this nomination was met with in the Security Council, in addition to the Yemeni brothers' welcome of my appointment to his mission. Ibrahimi added: I am looking forward to the help and assistance of my brothers in this country to perform this mission. He went on to say: Dialogue should be restored among the brothers and the Yemeni people's love for their country is well known. We are looking forward to their cooperation with each other and with us in order to return Yemen to its previous known march.

Concluding, Ibrahimi said: I will not answer questions at this stage until we meet with the brother officials and agree with them on the way to work together.

He was received at the airport by brother Ahmad Dayfallah al-'Uzayb, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs; Ambassador 'Abdallah al-Uhadi, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; a representative of the Presidential Council protocol; Dr. 'Awni al-'Ani, UN representative in our country; Chadli Benhabib, Algerian ambassador in Sanaa; and (?some officials).

Presidential Council Member al-Zandani Interviewed

JN0706191394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Qatari Television last night carried an interview with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani, member of the Presidential Council. In the interview al-Zandani expressed the Yemeni people's appreciation for the State of Qatar and the brotherly people who proved that they support the right, principles, and unity of Yemen. He said the Yemeni people will never forget this noble and fraternal position of our brothers in Qatar.

The brother Presidential Council member said that countries which respect their pledges and agreements, maintain their credibility, and are eager to preserve security and peace are the ones that supported Yemeni unity, and continue to adopt the same position.

On the allegations that what is going on in Yemen is a sectarian conflict, Shaykh al-Zandani explained that the Yemenis are one people with one religion, and that there are no sects in Yemen. He said our people lived under the brotherhood of Islam for more than 1,000 years and that colonialism was responsible for dividing the country. As for the sectarian or racial calls, they have been incited by the secessionists in the Socialist Party with the aim of dismantling the unity of the Yemeni people.

He said we consider these calls as having foreign political motives and that they are paid for in order to terminate unity, but the secessionists only reaped disappointment. Our Yemeni people and all their groups and governorates are standing against the clique that rebelled against our people and carried weapons in their faces to incite a rift.

On the Security Council resolution, he said the government appreciates the resolution and announced that it will deal with the resolution in a positive manner, and will cooperate with the international envoy and the fact-finding mission. He said we are satisfied because the Security Council resolution has tackled the problem as a united political entity that is the Republic of Yemen, and we hope that the United Nations will be able to understand what is going on in Yemen.

'Abd-al-Ghani Calls GCC Statement 'Interference'

JN0806054494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Presidential Council chairman, has stressed our country's concern to implement the UN Security Council resolution on the situation in Yemen. In this regard, he noted that our country has from the very beginning announced that it will abide by UN Security Council Resolution 924 which was issued on Wednesday [1 June].

In a telephone interview with Voice of America the day before yesterday, brother 'Abd-al-Ghani said the Republic of Yemen regrets the position of certain Arab states toward the situation in Yemen. He stressed that the statement issued at the conclusion of the meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers is considered an interference in Yemeni internal affairs. 'Abd-al-Ghani praised the position adopted by the fraternal State of Qatar rejecting this statement that failed to mention the Yemeni unity, which was underlined by the UN Security Council resolution.

In his interview with Voice of America, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani strongly denied that the Yemeni Air Force planes have raided Aden refinery. He said such refineries are the property of the Yemeni people and the government cannot destroy its own installations. He also stressed that the forces of constitutional legitimacy are concerned not to attack any position close to any vital installation in the country. He stressed that the forces of constitutional legitimacy have always taken care not to hit Salah-al-Din Camp, which is adjacent to the refinery, despite the fact that devastating Scud missiles—which left behind innocent victims and material damage in the civilian neighborhoods where they fell—were being fired from that camp. He underlined the secessionist elements' responsibility in hitting the Aden refinery to create among the Yemeni people in Aden some kind of bitterness.

'Secessionist' Elements Reportedly Arrest GPC Members

JN0806060594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source" at the GPC General Committee]

[Text] The GPC's [General People's Congress] Standing Committee has learned that the security agencies affiliated with the gang of apostasy and secession in Aden have in the past few days made collective arrests of many leaders and members of the GPC branch in Aden, the economic and trade capital of the unity state, which is now controlled by the gang of those who rebelled against unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy, and threw them in jails.

Information confirms that the security agencies of the rebel gang raided houses of the GPC members on the pretext of searching for weapons before arresting them and taking them to detention centers.

Reliable sources said these security agencies did not inform the families of some GPC members that they were detained. Other information says the detainees were subjected to psychological and physical torture at the hands of experts in torture after they had refused to sign a statement supporting al-Bid's declaration of secession.

The GPC Standing Committee is astonished by this criminal conduct. It holds the criminal gang fully responsible for what may happen to the detainees at the hands of their henchmen and calls for their immediate release. The Standing Committee urges all political parties and organizations and the popular institutions and organizations to denounce this cowardly act, which was carried out by the elements of apostasy and secession in the Socialist Party. Having failed to face the valiant forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy, these elements seek to take revenge from the innocent civilians, including members of our organization.

We also draw attention to the fact that these criminal, suppressive acts carried out by the elements of rebellion and secession in the Socialist Party expose the rigid totalitarian mentality, the tyrannical suppressive will, and the conspiratorial policies that still live at the minds of the enemies of democracy, human rights, and civil liberties; and who do not respect other opinions. These acts are yet another addition to the series of crimes committed by this gang against our people and will not go unpunished.

South Accuses North of Cease-Fire Violations

EA0706163594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source in the Defense Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Yemen; date not given]

[Text] At a time when the media of the ruling military regime in Sanaa and its foreign minister, Muhammad Salim Basindwah, are putting out statements to the effect that this regime is observing the cease-fire, the forces of this treacherous and adventurist regime mounted an aggressive attack at 0300 today.

Our heroic Armed Forces of the (?inner) Hadramawt axis repulsed this new act of aggression with rare courage, inflicting crushing blows on the enemy forces and causing them heavy losses in life and materiel. Our forces captured eight enemy [word indistinct] vehicles. At 1100 today our air defenses shot down one enemy MiG-21 fighter aircraft beyond the (al-Asalin) Heights. At 1530 today the enemy was forced to retreat. Our forces are currently in pursuit and mopping up remaining pockets of the enemy. God is great.

Further on Alleged Cease-Fire Violation

EA0706190594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] An official source in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] affirmed that the Sanaa ruling regime and its head, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, did not abide by the cease-fire as announced by it last night. The source indicated at 1130 last night information was picked up confirming that military reinforcements had come from Ta'izz to his forces and at 1216 minutes [as heard] a call was picked up while ordering the Sanaa regime's forces in their first axis to advance on Aden. The source affirmed that there is a recording of the voice of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih who was ordering his defense minister to continue the war. The order was carried out, but our forces repelled them and dealt killing blows to them.

Aden Criticizes North's Cease-Fire Announcement

EA0706191094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] The news agencies yesterday evening circulated the statement of the minister of foreign affairs of the ruling military regime in Sanaa, Muhammad Salim Basindwah, in which he announced that his government will commit itself to the cease-fire with effect from midnight yesterday. The Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY], which for its part announced its full commitment to the UN Security Council resolution which was issued last Wednesday [1 June], is also ready to satisfy [words indistinct]. As for the ruling military regime in Sanaa, it issued this announcement as a new lie and a political maneuver, the target of which is to hypnotize the world community and to absorb the Arab and world's anger for its defiance of the UN Security Council resolution and all the Arab and international efforts, the last of which was the American warning and the Egyptian communique.

Since midnight last night the ruling military regime in Sanaa has ordered its forces to launch a total and wide-scale attack on all fronts. In other words, it considered the time fixed as a cease-fire deadline, which deluded the public opinion, as a zero hour for the wild, total, and hostile attacks against our people in the DRY. Thus, this adventurous military regime continues its flagrant defiance of the world community and at the same time releases news to the outside world about its acceptance of the cease-fire.

The DRY, which was and is still ready for an immediate cease-fire since the UN Security Council's resolution was issued last Wednesday, finds itself compelled to defend itself in front of a brutal enemy who has been waging this criminal war for 44 days running, amid local, Arab and international objections and on the debris of the skulls of thousands of the sons of our people as well as the destruction of cities, villages, and vital economic installations.

Al-Bid Displeased Jordan Reportedly Aiding Sanaa

EA0706204294 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the chairman of the Presidential Council, said that stopping the war is the thing that stops danger. As long as there is a war existing there are dangers existent and the main loser is the Yemeni people. He clarified that our infrastructure is subjected to destruction and that those who are imposing war on us

now have no cause, emphasizing that we have a cause for which we are struggling and that we are owners of the right. This came in a press interview held by the AL-KHALIJ newspaper of the United Arab Emirates with Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the chairman of the Presidential Council, and published in its issue dated 5 June.

He clarified that what is going on in Yemen today is not a Yemeni issue only. The project that collided with the unity project and spoiled it is another project connected to many projects and how can we explain that Iran was displeased by the UN Security Council's resolution concerning Yemen? He added that the issue now is the issue of the Gulf states, the stability of the people, and the interests of these countries. Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid went on to say: The others are trying to impose the Gulf crisis on us, but [words indistinct] its expansion to another region in the south of the Arabian Peninsula.

In his reply to a question about published information mentioning that there are Jordanian airplanes which are providing Sanaa with weapons and ammunition, Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid said: Yes, there is information about this matter. In the beginning I did not believe it, but when we followed up the matter we got sure about it. I did not expect this stand from Jordan. It is me who went to King Husayn to help us in reaching a solution and mediation. I had not expected this. I had not wanted King Husayn's stand to be heard, but this is their state policy. This is their own concern.

About the relations of the Democratic Republic of Yemen with the member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the chairman of the Presidential Council said: We created here a state which wants stability. I consider it in the first defense line of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. We are seeking stability and he who seeks stability continues as a defense line for all those who seek stability anywhere.

Al-Bid on Military Situation, UN Envoy's Mission

NC0706214294 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Interview with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, "president of the Democratic Republic of Yemen," in al-Mukalla, by Nichole Tannuri, in London, on 7 June—recorded]

[Text] [Tannuri] 'Ali Salim al-Bid, president of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, told MBC Television this evening via satellite from his current headquarters in al-Mukalla, Hadhramaut, that talks should take place after the war stops and that they could address all issues. He welcomed the mission of special UN envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi. He said that he will not set any preconditions or make any prerequisites so that Ibrahimi's mission is not fraught with obstacles.

We asked al-Bid at the beginning of our meeting with him about the latest developments in the military situation.

[Begin recording] [Al-Bid] The military situation: I believe it is well-known now that there are many battles raging around Aden. There are also battles raging on the Hadhramaut and Shabwah fronts. But there is also mythical heroism from our people.

[Tannuri] What are the factors for the success of the mission of UN envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, in your opinion?

[Al-Bid] We welcome Lakhdar Ibrahimi in his capacity as the envoy of the UN secretary general and as an Arab brother with a respectable position and experience in the Arab homeland. I also believe that he will find us cooperating with him. We are confident that he is the man for such a mission.

[Tannuri] Is it possible to return to the subject of unity once again?

[Al-Bid] All issues are open for discussion. We declared the Democratic Republic of Yemen. The bases on which this republic is established are known. The important thing now is to talk about stopping the fighting. We can then discuss any other topic.

[Tannuri] How did you receive the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] statement regarding Yemen?

[Al-Bid] We believe that this is the result of the status quo. Our relations with the GCC and with all the Arab countries and the rest of the world are old relations going back a quarter of a century. The transitional period during which we earnestly tried to move toward unity is a period of a break in relations that was not successful as a result of obstacles imposed by the kind of thinking that interprets unity as control and hegemony. It was a period of our estrangement from the rest of the world. However, we believe that the statement is a good statement. We expect more serious steps to be taken after this. [end recording]

Discusses Prospects for Future

NC0806065294 London MBC Television in Arabic 2140 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Interview with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, "president of the Democratic Republic of Yemen," in Hadhramout, by Nichole Tannuri, in London, on 7 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Tannuri] What is the truth behind the Iraqi and Sudanese military assistance to north Yemen?

[Al-Bid] I believe that there is an attempt to reenact the Gulf crisis in the Arabian Peninsula. There was an attempt to let this crisis drag on after it had been contained in order to drown the region in tension and instability. Some states have clearly declared their stand. We hope they will not go too far in dragging the area into more instability and destruction.

[Tannuri] Do you need military support and do you get any such support from abroad?

[Al-Bid] Any man who fights needs certain capabilities. We are defending ourselves with what we have. We will make every possible sacrifice to defend ourselves at any price. We taught the retreating invaders unforgettable lessons. They realized that in the areas they tried to invade and in courageous Aden. [passage omitted]

[Tannuri] Do you expect Arab and foreign states to recognize your republic or does that recognition depend on the United Nations?

[Al-Bid] We believe that charity begins at home. Our people in Arab and Muslim states come first. I believe that the world now knows what is happening in Yemen—there is a conflict and a cause. The proclamation of the Democratic Republic of Yemen was based on principles I believe will be approved and backed by many Arab, Muslim, and world states.

[Tannuri] Analysts believe that the south sought secession when it turned out that most oil reserves were in the southern parts of the country.

[Al-Bid] We knew about the oil before unity. We had sufficient information. But oil never dissuaded us from seeking unity. The oil is not new. What hindered the march toward unity was the emergence of another venture that conflicted with unity, whether Yemeni or collective Arab democratic unity. On the one hand, there is an alliance between the mentality of the military and the al- Ahmar [reference to Parliamentary Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar] family gang and on the other there is the fundamentalists who want to take the Arab nation to the middle ages. We in Yemen and many parts of the Arab homeland want to enter the 21st century with the entire world.

A last word. I hope the crisis that befell the Yemeni people will stop at is current level. It is the Yemeni people and not the advocates of war who are losing. I hope the United Nations and international legitimacy will live up to their responsibility to restrict that arrogant mentality by which Sanaa rulers seek to force their will on the people. They are bombarding areas of Aden indiscriminately and are trying to destroy the economy and its foundations. The latest crime they committed was shelling Aden's oil refinery twice. They are still trying to do that. I hope reason will triumph. I also hope capable states will succeed in putting an end to this. We made contacts with all parties concerned. I believe they are capable of ending this tragedy. What is taking place on the ground must be monitored. Our task right now is to put an end to the catastrophe by first observing a cease-fire and then discussing future issues.

[Tannuri] Thank you.

Southern Yemen's al-'Attas Views Developments

PM0706154094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jun 94 p 2

[Interview with "South Yemen Prime Minister" Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] Sanaa has announced its commitment to halting the fighting since the adoption of the Security Council resolution. In fact military operations have escalated. What is the situation and how do you view it?

[Al-'Attas] On my arrival in Cairo I received a report from Aden on a telephone conversation intercepted between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and commanders of the military units, in which he literally says: "The military situation must be settled within 14 hours." So he wants to occupy Aden. And he is currently hitting strategic installations and civilian installations. In contrast, the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] has announced its acceptance of the cease-fire and committed itself to implementing it. So northern forces have exploited the situation and begun to launch their attacks on vital facilities. As is known, they have shelled oil refineries in the south, in addition to the extensive artillery bombardment of residential areas to kill more people and abort the resistance in the DRY.

The present military situation is a serious escalation. I openly declare that Sanaa is resorting to evasion even in the statement issued by it. This statement does not offer open and clear acceptance of the Security Council resolution. They are always lying. We believe that this lying to the international community will result in very disastrous consequences.

[Abu-Husayn] In your view, can northern forces occupy Aden within 14 hours on orders from the general command of the units on the various fronts?

[Al-'Attas] I say this from a position of confidence: Let 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih himself and the world around him be assured that Aden will not fall, nor will he occupy it. Aden fighters will struggle to defend it. I admit that Aden could suffer heavily and be exposed to destruction, but it will not fall into the north's hands. We say to the international community that the DRY has complied and implemented the cease-fire. But the north has exploited the situation and is trying to occupy, and we are now in a position of defense.

[Abu-Husayn] Have you requested international forces from the United Nations to protect Aden?

[Al-'Attas] Yes, we requested that early on, as we know the intentions of the north. And now the Security Council is responsible for implementing its resolution. We informed the Security Council the day before yesterday of the military escalation by Sanaa. We have also

briefed the United States and all the parties exerting efforts to halt the fighting on developments in the situation.

[Abu-Husayn] With the arrival of UN envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi in Yemen, do you expect the fighting to be halted?

[Al-'Attas] We hope so, and once Sanaa complies, we will end the state of defense.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you have specific demands for Lakhdar Ibrahimi?

[Al-'Attas] Our demands are known. They are summed up as follows: First, a halt to the fighting. Second, send international forces to disengage the forces. Then we would continue to implement the Security Council resolution without any reservations or conditions. We are willing to engage in a dialogue, negotiations, and anything else except the imposition of unity by force of arms or the wish to achieve personal interests for a partisan alliance, as is currently happening between the [General People's] Congress and the [Yemeni] Reform Grouping in the north.

[Abu-Husayn] How do you view the positions of Britain and France on safeguarding Yemen's unity and nonrecognition of the new state?

[Al-'Attas] We have made contacts with them. They support the Security Council resolution, to which all states, including the DRY, have agreed.

[Abu-Husayn] Are you thinking of visiting a number of Arab capitals? What about the results of your visits to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt?

[Al-'Attas] They were very good. They were designed to exert all efforts and pressures to halt the ongoing war. I also intend to visit a number of Arab capitals. Especially as the military escalation by Sanaa is exposing the region to great dangers. Because the war is currently taking place on the borders of some fraternal countries, as in the northern area in Shabwah. At the least, the result is the emigration of huge numbers of homeless people and victims of war.

[Abu-Husayn] Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] issued a statement tacitly recognizing the DRY. What is your opinion?

[Al-'Attas] We welcome the statement issued by the GCC foreign ministers. We consider it a good start for establishing distinct and special relations. We also thank them for their supportive and strong stands aimed at securing a cease-fire. They must be given the credit for their resolution, which is nothing but the voice of reason. Because unity cannot be imposed by force of arms. Besides, reason prompts us all—including Sanaa—to respond to the Security Council resolutions in order to safeguard what is left of Yemen and to safeguard the region's security and future.

And finally, we must thank all the Gulf states, as well as Egypt, Syria, and Morocco, for their courageous stands regarding safeguarding Yemen's unity and their eagerness to spare it destruction—something President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has not done.

[Abu-Husayn] How do you view the present U.S. position?

[Al-'Attas] The U.S. position is similar to ours. It supports the Security Council resolution, a halt to the fighting, and the call for a dialogue. We welcome that. The question of recognition is a formal matter, because we were a state in the past, and all is needed now is restore the situation to its previous status.

Al-'Attas on Cease-Fire Failure, War Escalation

EA0706193194 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Mr. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, arrived in Abu-Dhabi today from Cairo after a two-day visit to Egypt. Mr. al-'Attas had met in Cairo with the Egyptian president, Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and held talks with the Egyptian officials on the current situation in Yemen.

In a press conference, the prime minister said that while democratic Yemen announced its preparedness to receive the fact-finding commission and to cooperate with it and facilitate its mission in order to achieve peace in Yemen and resort to dialogue, the Sanaa regime refused to comply with the Security Council [resolution] and the advice of the Arab leaders, among them President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt, Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, king of Saudi Arabia, and the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad. He added that the Sanaa regime had (?accepted) conditional agreement on cease-fire and then broke it up on weak excuses. This proves that there is open contradiction in the decision making circle there.

He affirmed that the situation in the last 48 hours had witnessed a dangerous escalation. The Sanaa regime used in its attacks all destructive weapons, including rockets and long-range heavy artillery. He indicated that the residential quarters and utilities had been the targets of the rockets and warplane missiles. Al-'Attas described the shelling of Aden refinery as a sign of the times. He said that this operation had shocked the Arab and world public opinion.

Al-'Attas Says South To Demand War Reparations

JN0806095894 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0905 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Al-Dammam, 8 Jun (WAKH)—[Former Yemeni Prime Minister] Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has announced that his country will ask the Sanaa government to pay war reparations. He said that the northern

Yemeni troops have damaged the infrastructure in south Yemen and made thousands of Yemenis homeless.

In a statement to the Saudi newspaper AL-YAWM published today, al-'Attas expressed total amazement over the announced number of losses among the northern troops, which was put at 613. Al-'Attas wondered whether this figure can be reasonable [words indistinct], given the use of various kinds of mass destruction weapons.

Al-'Attas welcomed the final statement issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, saying that this statement reflects the GCC members' eagerness to safeguard the security and safety of the Yemeni people in particular, and those of the region in general.

Al-'Attas affirmed that Sanaa has no control over the cease-fire decision [la tamluk qarar waqf itlaq al-nar]. That is why it has procrastinated over the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution, which demanded an immediate cease-fire, and failed to honor it since it was announced the evening before last.

Al-'Attas noted that the international recognition of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] will make Sanaa observe a cease-fire.

He added that some 60,000 persons have been killed, while the number of people made homeless has exceeded 100,000.

Aden 'Minister': Plans for Counterattack 'Being Made'

EA0706164494 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Brother Muhsin Bin-Muhammad Bin-Farid, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development, has said that defending the homeland is a life and death issue. He said that preparations were actively being made for a counterattack on the various fronts. In an interview for the Kuwaiti AL-SIYASAH, the minister stressed that the sons of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] were prepared and fully determined to regain all their territory and to drive out the aggressive invaders from the gang of the al-Ahmar clan. He said there were thousands of the sons of the Shabwah and Hadramawt Governorates who were going to the fronts and performing battle feats as part of their sacred duty to defend the homeland. They were fighting with high morale because they had a just cause.

He noted that the citizens had [word indistinct] well and had expressed their joy at the declaration of the establishment of the DRY as constituting a fundamental change in their political, economic, and social life and a strong factor for changing the political and military balance in south Yemen in general. [passage omitted]

Aden 'Defense Minister' on War Developments

JN0706171794 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 6-12 Jun 94 pp 12-13

[Interview with Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, "South Yemen's defense minister," in "his office at the Defense Ministry in Aden," by Zaki Shihab; date not given]

[Text] [Shihab] How do you assess the military situation on the fronts four weeks after the start of the fighting?

[Tahir] You know well that this all-out war in our country started, in effect, on 27 April 1994 with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's famous speech in which he declared war. Less than two hours after that speech, the 3d Armored Brigade, one of the brigades we moved to the northern governorates immediately after unity, was attacked. A few days later, the Ba Suhayb Brigade came under a treacherous attack in Dhamar. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih then pushed his troops on various fronts, including Qa'tabah, al-Dali', al-Rahidah, Kirsh, al-Bayda', Mukayris, and Hurayb-Bayhan, and Bab el-Mandeb-Kharaz; that is, on the borders between the former North and South Yemens. Battles continue now for the fourth consecutive week. This war, which started in effect on 27 April, was prepared and planned in advance and many rehearsals were made. On the eve of signing the "Pledge and Accord Document" in Amman on 21 February, units from the al-'Amaliqah Brigade attacked our units in Abyan. We, however, exercised self-restraint and did not retaliate. The same thing happened again when the 1st Armored Division of the Republican Guard attacked the 5th Infantry Brigade in Sufyan area in the Sanaa suburbs. That brigade was destroyed completely and its soldiers who survived were displaced. The final rehearsal was the attack against the 3d Armored Brigade in 'Amran on the same day (President) 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih declared war.

It thus became apparent to us that the northern president wants to exterminate not only his political opponents, but also every officer and soldier from the southern governorates. This was confirmed practically by the all-out war he launched on the various fronts and in which he made the villages, towns, and civilian installations a target for barbaric and random artillery, rocket, and air attacks.

[Shihab] How able are the southern forces to stand fast in the face of the northern troops, despite the other side's superiority in number and military equipment?

[Tahir] It is sufficient to say that (President) 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his advisers planned to settle the matter within hours, and at maximum in one or two days. This was frequently stated either by their president or his advisers, such as (Dr.) Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, (Dr.) 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, and (Foreign Minister) Basindwah. This was an illusion and a fantasy. The war has entered its second month now and our troops are still standing fast against the invading and aggressive forces

that (President) 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has thrown in. He has taken advantage of the numerical superiority, not only of his regular troops but also of the thousands of citizens from the central areas. He used these citizens for two purposes: To serve as human shields in his aggressive war on the one hand, and on the other, to get these citizens killed and, consequently, to weaken these areas so that they will not pose any threat against him in the future.

Despite their smaller number, our Armed Forces have managed not only to confront and stand fast, but also to deal fatal blows to the aggressive troops and force them to retreat in more than one battle and on more than one front. This has actually happened on the Kharaz front, where three reinforced brigades—the 1st 'Urubah Brigade, the 4th 'Urubah Brigade, and Khalid Barracks—were defeated in a battle against one of our brigades. I can confirm that our Armed Forces are capable of defense and can stand fast.

[Shihab] As a former defense minister in united Yemen, how do you view the northern forces' capability of continuing the war?

[Tahir] I believe that the combat capabilities of the regular forces, dominated by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's family, have been exhausted. Thousands of civilians mobilized by tribal men ran away from the battles, were killed, or surrendered after they discovered the falseness of the slogans raised by al-Ahmar's clan—slogans claiming that unity and legitimacy are being defended and that the south and the central regions are secessionists.

[Shihab] Battles are now raging in the southern regions, and your role is defensive. Will you launch an attack to expel the northern forces from your territories?

[Tahir] It is quite natural that battles are raging in southern regions as you have described them, because 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's forces have been preparing for this comprehensive war against the sons of the southern governorates by massing and mobilizing all forces and means, at a time when we dealt with the unity in an emotional and innocent manner as if it were an irrevocable issue. Therefore, our combat operations are defensive. In other words, we are defending the sons of the southern and eastern governorates. At the same time, our forces dealt crushing blows to the hostile forces, inflicted on them huge losses in life and equipment, and forced them to retreat and withdraw on several fronts.

[Shihab] Do you have any idea of when the battle will be decided?

[Tahir] Our cause is just because we did not attack anybody. We are defending our people, who will support us regardless of circumstances or the duration of the war.

[Shihab] Aden seems to be besieged on three sides. Are there any plans to break the siege and link Aden again with other governorates in the near future?

[Tahir] Aden, as well as the southern and eastern governorates, suffered from the central government in Sanaa, which tried to impose the system of the Republic of Yemen. Aden also has suffered from the presence of the Sanaa regime's forces in Abyan and Lahij in the north and the east since the establishment of the unity.

State institutions in Aden, along with its honest and cooperative citizens, enabled Aden to rise again to carry out its duties as a capital of our young republic and even as a capital of all Yemen. It is the one that hosted the National Political Forces Dialogue and it was a venue for the national conference.

We are not only defending Aden, but also all the territories of the Democratic Republic of Yemen. All the sons of the northern governorates are taking part in this effort, especially the sons of the central regions who are impatiently waiting for the day of salvation from the domination of al-Ahmar's clan.

[Shihab] Some circles talk about northern penetrations in southern ranks, and some others say that commanders of some units were executed in the battlefield. Is this true?

[Tahir] It is quite natural that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih will find supporters within our units because we believed we had one state and one army. But the northern president and his supporters behaved in a conspiratorial and opportunist way. I can assure you that these elements are very few and do not affect at all our forces' defensive position.

[Shihab] In your opinion, was this breakthrough the cause of the northern Yemeni forces' success in penetrating deep into the southern territory?

[Tahir] The so-called northern forces' success in penetrating deep in the southern territory was first caused by the element of surprise in war; that is, the method of treachery followed by the forces of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in addition to the numerical superiority and the mobilization of thousands of tribal men. In view of all this, our forces had to absorb the surprise attacks, deal crushing blows to the attacking forces, and reorganize.

[Shihab] It was observed recently that your forces possessed new weapons and equipment. Did you obtain new weapons from abroad?

[Tahir] We have not obtained any weapons or equipment from abroad. The most important weapon we have is the well-trained Yemeni individual who is aware of the just cause he is adhering to; namely, the cause of defending his land and honor.

[Shihab] Southern military communiques say that your forces fired surface-to-air missiles that intercepted northern missiles and destroyed them over Aden. Does this mean that your forces possess enough of these missiles to ward off any heavy missile attacks on Aden?

[Tahir] The firing of surface-to-surface missiles by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's forces against homes of innocents citizens is a sign of bankruptcy in this losing war. These forces believed that they would be able to decide the course of this war within one or two days. Indeed, or defense units shot down a number of these missiles.

[Shihab] You have been quoted as saying that the northern forces employed chemical weapons in the Shabwah Governorate. Do you intend to retaliate by employing similar weapons? Do you have proof of your accusations?

[Tahir] What we have said were justifiable suspicions. Those who began this destructive war against an entire people and used savage shelling by all means of heavy weapons, including missiles, will not hesitate to employ whatever they lay their hand on. Our suspicions are strengthened by the relationship between 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who is known for his longstanding hostility to our people. Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid's description of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih as a "little Saddam" is not without significance.

Aden Radio Reports Shu'ayb Assault Repulsed

EA0706165094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] The popular resistance in Shu'ayb led by fighters of the liberation war with great courage and heroism repulsed yesterday the attacks of the gang of the al-Ahmar clan, inflicting on the enemy huge human and materiel losses. The popular resistance managed to kill a number of enemy officers and men of the invading forces. Among those killed was staff Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah Haydar al-Sanhani, a relative of the leader of the gang of the al-Ahmar gang, who was [words indistinct] al-Hamzah and had been charged with leading the attack on Dhamar and the liquidation of al-Dali' and Shu'ayb. The popular resistance found in his possession orders from 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih charging him with the destruction of al-Dali' and Shu'ayb and killing their inhabitants without mercy, looting their possessions, and [word indistinct] their land, all of which is indicative of the savagery of the criminal and inhuman operations being conducted by the gang of the al-Ahmar clan and its (?hungry) retinue.

Repairs to Aden Water Generator Said Under Way

EA0706204594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] An official source in the Ministry of Electricity and Water told the Yemeni news agency, Aden, that in continuation of the all-out war launched by the Sanaa military rulers against the people of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, particularly the brutal shelling of the economic and social establishments, the al-Ahmar gang's warplanes last Saturday [4th June] shelled the (?Aden-Lahij) water electricity generator and stopped pumping of water to the residential quarters in the capital, Aden. The Public Corporation for Water was able to repair the generator and pump the water. The enemy warplanes once again shelled the same generator yesterday by personal instructions of the head of the Sanaa ruling regime. The source confirmed that the Public Water Corporation is currently repairing the generator.

North Reportedly Continues Attack on Aden Airport

LD0806101994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, 8 Jun (KUNA)—Military officials in South Yemen announced today that the northern forces have continued their bombardment of Aden airport while the main oil refinery in Aden is still on fire for the third successive day.

These officials told KUNA that a number of surface-to-surface missiles landed on Aden airport at dawn today. The airport has for the last several days been under indiscriminate bombardment in a move to prevent military aircraft from flying from it. However, they did not report any casualties.

The Yemeni news agency in Aden has quoted security sources as having said that the village of Dar Sa'd, which lies 15 km from the capital, was subjected last night to an indiscriminate bombardment by the artillery of the northern forces which left 18 people killed and no less than 23 wounded. The agency said the southern forces responded fiercely to silence the source of the fire while resisting to check the advance of these forces which seek to tighten the noose on the city from different directions.

On the other hand the capital Aden was still suffering from shortages of drinking water and foodstuffs, the prices of which have skyrocketed dramatically, according to some Yemenis. Yemeni citizens interviewed by KUNA said that the price of a kilogram [kg] of potatoes has risen by five times its price before the outbreak of fighting between the north and the south, with one kg reaching 50 Yemeni riyals in the last two days. (One dollar is the equivalent of 12 riyals at the official exchange rate)

An official in the government disclosed in Aden that former Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the envoy of the UN secretary general, will meet with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, tomorrow or the day after at the latest in Mukallah. Ibrahimi is due to arrive in Sanaa today from Cairo at the start of a new mission to halt the fighting which has been going on in Yemen since 4 May. Ibrahimi's mission as the UN envoy begins in accordance with Security Council Resolution 924, which calls for an immediate cease-fire.

Egyptian Writer Analyzes Situation

NC0706094094 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Jun 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Mahfuz al-Ansari]

[Text] It seems that the UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire in Yemen has signalled, in fact and practice, the beginning of a process toward:

1. Secession and the return of the situation to what it was before April 1990—a state in the north with its capital Sanaa and a state in the south with its capital Aden.

2. Internalization after the failure of the local and internal efforts to reconcile the warring factions in Yemen. Added to this is the failure of regional and pan-Arab mediation efforts by the Arab brothers and neighbors and their Arab League. Following this national and pan-Arab failure, there is a need for an "international" solution to at least stop the bloodbath and end the massacres that the two sides have been carrying out with great appetite.

3. Intervention after the sides which have an interest with this or that side and which have aligned with the south or supported the north have contented themselves with closely follow-up the situation or secretly helping this or that side during the past month of fighting.

After this anticipation, caution, claim of neutrality, and non-disclosure of true positions and feelings and after the Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire, the external parties—neighbors and non-neighbors—will find enough cover to intervene publicly and to morally and financially support the side that they believe will achieve their objectives.

There is nothing better than an international umbrella which states will use as an excuse for their intervention. This is particularly so because up to the moment the Security Council resolution was issued, the parties to the dispute had embarked on a course leading to:

1. Secession.
2. Internationalization as a cover from beginning to end.
3. Active foreign intervention with politics and even with arms and forces.

The race of the two leaders, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, ended in a tie.

Salih fired three long-range missiles on Aden—its mosques, houses, and inhabitants.

Al-Bid responded by forming a government in the south under Haydar al-'Attas and including as members all those who can offer support in the battle for survival and existence. Al-Bid's traditional allies, his old rivals in the party and power struggle, and 'Ali Salih's foes in the north, such as 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, are all qualified to join this government.

'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, with his missiles and his forces's activity around Aden and the roads leading to it, wanted to settle the situation militarily and from a strong position before accepting the UN Security Council cease-fire resolution. 'Ali Salim al-Bid wanted to impose a fait accompli. He hoped that negotiations on an international or regional solution or settlement through mediation efforts and good offices would be held on the basis of this fait accompli, which offers two separate and disputant states—not two disputant regions within one state.

Before analyzing the situation and its future possibilities in light of the UN resolution, I would like to explain Egypt's stance on the crisis.

There is a mistaken feeling which has developed innocently or not-so-innocently in the Egyptian public and the Arab and world media that Egypt's stance essentially supports 'Ali Salim al-Bid and hence secession. Some consider support for secession an unforgivable sin. This mistaken feeling is translated by some inside and outside Egypt as reflecting hostility to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salim for his stand on the terrorists whom he has sheltered and to whom he has opened training centers where they plan and concoct plots under complete freedom without any restrictions.

The truth of the matter is different. Cairo's relations with Sanaa—the Sanaa of unity or the Sanaa of the north—is very good, especially with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The reason is that Cairo has accurate data, containing numbers and names, on the size of this "presence" of "political Islam" groups on the land of Yemen. They include Egyptians, Sudanese, Palestinians, Lebanese, Algerians, Afghans, and others.

Egypt knows the powers that foster, protect, finance, and nurture these activities in and out of Yemen. It knows the "influence of the state," as represented by President Salih and his men and institutions, and knows the extent and limits of its ability to control. It knows about the power of the tribes and the leaders of "political Islam," their size, influence, and scope of control.

In many of its features, dimensions, and characteristics, this situation is similar to the relation between the authority of Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir and that of "Shaykh Hasan," or Dr. Hasan al-Turabi and his [National Salvation] front. Despite the ranks shown on their shoulders and the military medals decorating their chests, the heads of authority in Sanaa and Sudan, Salih and al-Bashir, own but do not rule, and neither al-Turabi nor al-Ahmar carry ranks on their shoulders or military medals on their chest.

Cairo certainly knows what is happening on the Yemeni and Sudanese soils; it knows about the existence, the figures, the size, and the activity linked to violence and political Islam groups.

What interests us today is Yemen and the "extremist" and hostile presence there. We are interested in Yemen, both its northern and southern sectors, particularly during its time of unity from May 1990 to May 1994.

In the northern governorate of Sa'dah, there is a camp named Sinnarah that provides training in urban warfare, blowing up roads, and spreading armed anarchy. Among the members of this camp, there are Algerians, Tunisians, Sudanese, Libyans, Palestinians, and of course Egyptians, specifically 16 Egyptians.

There is (al-Raht) camp in the governorate of Lahij in the south. It belongs to the al-Jihad Organization and its training techniques focus on "sabotage" operations. Weapons, equipment, and supplies are sent directly to this camp from the capital of the north, or rather the capital of unity, Sanaa, via mountain paths across (Tawr al-Bahah).

In the governorate of Ta'izz, a major northern city, lies Rawnah camp, where a number of Egyptians belonging to the al-Jihad Organization and the Vanguards of Conquest receive their training.

There is also the camp of ('Ataq and Gharran) in the governorate of Shabwah, the oil-rich area of the south.

In all these camps, as well as in homes and hideouts and in the areas protected by northern army brigades like al-'Amaliqah Brigade, stationed in the south, there are active Egyptian elements. These elements arrive there, receive their training, then disperse to carry out the tasks entrusted to them. Cairo knows this and knows many other things.

It knows that Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar and his half brother 'Ali Salim are among the major loyalists and active leaders of political Islam and its organizations, those of the "Iranian school," those led and financed by Usamah Bin-Ladin and his disciples, or those of the international organization in which Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi plays an important, powerful, and active role.

A number of integrated, conflicting, and interlinked factors are involved in that blend; they move it and guarantee its existence. That blend involves the temptation of money, an abundance of it. It involves the "suspicious" connection with the elements of international collusion that seek to keep the area under control by maintaining its backwardness and infighting, or by fanning tribal or regional fanaticism or local rivalry. It also involves love for adventure and a desire to seek a certain role, even through crime and terrorism, and finally involves a twisted and erroneous understanding of Islam, its message, and essence.

Ugly and serious as it might be, one thing is certain—the fact that acting in the name of unity or partition, the central government in Sanaa exercises control only on "civilian" areas in and around big cities. Control beyond these limits is in the hands of tribes and their chieftains, who are backed by the groups and the "amirs and shaykhs" of political Islam, who are in actual control at present.

In this light, Cairo has realized that backing the civilian authority—as represented in the head of state, his foundations and institutions and, particularly, his army—is the only way to maintain and safeguard Yemen's march toward breaking free from tribalism and imams rule. This is the only way to guarantee an end to grudges, rivalry, and infighting just to oblige the "chieftain" or the leaders or amirs of organizations that pursue violence and terrorism in the name of religion.

When Cairo declared its stand through President Mubarak that unity cannot be imposed by force and maintained by bloodshed, it meant to prevent deepening the wound and meant to curb the dispute, division, and hatred caused by wars and destruction. It sought to preserve Yemen's forces, institutions, and lively and enlightened forces both in the north and the south.

If the experiment of the past four years could not build unitary institutions in the army, administration and in people's minds, the path is still open and the future is still full of hope provided that ties are maintained, partition is not consolidated by wasted blood in the north and the south, and Yemen's strength and resources are preserved. That is why the contacts by the two sides of the crisis Salih and Salim with President Mubarak have not ceased.

Let us go back to the beginning of the article. What will happen after the Security Council resolution to halt the fighting which, as we indicated, opened the way to internationalization, partition, and intervention?

One of the strategic experts concerned with the Yemeni crisis and its developments presents three possible scenarios after the Security Council's cease-fire resolution.

First, in his view, the north will declare that it has accepted the resolution, which it did. But at the same time it continues its action on the ground by striking at cities and homes, especially Aden, it completely rejects dialogue with the Socialist Party leaders, especially al-Bid and his men, and it demands dialogue with other Socialist Party leaders to be designated by itself. Through big, tempting promises, the north could impose on them its conditions and achieve the formula it is seeking which is naturally the continuation of the unity under its leadership and control.

Such a scenario is not applicable and is far from being a solution and settlement. It opens the door to a painful, drawn-out war of annihilation between the north and the south and also opens the door to a sharp division within the Socialist Party ranks and leaders and the southern leaders amid the tragedies of war and the effects of bombardment and destruction with an apparent superiority of the northern forces.

In second scenario, the north will accept the cease-fire through negotiations with the south and Socialist Party leaders, led by al-Bid. The conditions for this second probability are:

-The south and its forces should be able to hold out militarily and prevent the northern forces from capturing Aden, Hadhramout, and Mukalla through a reasonable and firm military position.

-This steadfastness by the southerners should be coupled with and backed by active, effective international pressure and sincere goodwill efforts forcing the northerners to initiate a dialogue and disengage the forces. This will pave the way for talk about unity at present and in the future or about any other formula.

In the third scenario, the Security Council's resolution will be practically rejected outright and the fighting and marches on cities and important junctions will continue even if the cease-fire remained in place while the true situation is the opposite.

Such a probability, as well as the blood and destruction caused by it every day and every moment and the potential foreign interventions in favor of this or that party may prompt the international community and the international organization to escalate its resolutions from a kind request for a cease-fire to punishing the violators of the cease-fire through the imposition of a blockade and economic and military sanctions and the like.

Such a worsening and crumbling situation will not be accompanied by only foreign and regional interventions from the neighbors but may also prompt many countries to promote the recognition and perpetuation of a complete separation between the north and the south and may subject the two sides of the crisis to the will of the parties that provide each side with money, arms, food supplies, and political support.

This picture in general reflects the situation in Yemen as it would be after the war continued and acts of destruction and shelling continued and went beyond all limits of what is prohibited, thus violating all laws.

Perhaps the voice of wisdom and reason and the call of patriotic conscience may preserve the Yemeni homeland or what remains of its elements of strength and life and what remains of the dreams and hopes of unity and merger.

Saddam's Assumption of Prime Minister Post Viewed

JN0306182794 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 31 May 94 pp 1, 2

["A Standpoint" column by Salah al-Mukhtar: "The Leadership and the Requirements To End the Blockade"]

[Text] The most significant element in the joint reaction from the Iraqi people's various sectors to leader President Saddam Husayn's assumption of the post of prime minister is that the people are now more optimistic about the future and that the next months will see major positive changes in favor of the Iraqi people.

A quick review of the events of the 17-30 July revolution in 1968 will show those who want to understand the course of events that the leader president has emerged triumphant from all his missions, enjoying the support of the Iraqi masses, who took more pride in their jihad and their great accomplishments and gains.

Today, as we enter the last 10 days of the blockade, it is no longer secret that after the enemy, regardless of its names and colors, gave up all hope of succeeding in his conspiratorial and hostile plans to divide Iraq and destroy its people, resorted to its last card in this conflict, hoping that this card will achieve what it had failed to achieve through the comprehensive military aggression and barbaric blockade.

U.S. awareness that it has lost the logic and the argument, that world public opinion, including that of the American people, has begun to understand Iraq's positions; and that the overwhelming majority of nations have begun to prepare appropriate plans to deal with Iraq in the near future without the economic blockade, whether or not the United States agrees, has made the United States feel that it is inevitably about to lose another strategic conflict in a world that has begun to slip away from the grip of the United States. Therefore, the United States has begun either to use additional destructive means or to strengthen the old ones.

We will not exaggerate if we say that the principal aim of the United States is to increase difficulties in the life of Iraqi society by further weakening the Iraqi economy and making the people unable to shoulder the extraordinary inflation that resulted from the blockade and greed. Therefore, efforts over the past months have focused on easing the negative economic impact of the blockade so citizens do not despair.

But these efforts have clashed with the fact that the current challenge for the Iraqi people is unlike any other challenge that has threatened any people in history. For the first time, a four-year comprehensive blockade has been clamped on a nation, and for the first time, all intellectual, psychological, financial, and economic energies have been used to destroy the potential of Iraqi society. Therefore, many solutions were ineffective, despite good intentions.

As a result, it was extremely necessary for the leader president to assume the direct responsibilities of the prime minister. His unique leadership capabilities, his deep and far-sighted strategic vision, and his comprehensive experience in dealing with conflicts and solving complicated crises constitute a strong basis for an effective solution to problems in the daily life of the masses.

Yes, the leader's assumption of the responsibilities of the prime minister will guarantee for the people a solution to years-old outstanding problems and will constitute a natural framework for state organizations to carry out their duties in a different way based on resisting the blockade in untraditional ways. This is a studied Iraqi reply to the current mobilization of hostile energies to destroy Iraq.

The battle to break the blockade in the near future is no longer a dream or hope, but has become a reality about which the enemy—ahead of the friend—is talking.

The coming months will certainly be decisive. Therefore, the blockade-breaking battle, which is considered the most serious and the most honorable battle of the Arab fate, along with its great changes, plans, and sides, should be defined and engineered by the great leader, Saddam Husayn, who dispels darkness and despair and creates hope. Let us stand behind the leader more firmly, deriving lessons from the Mother of Battles, foremost of which is sticking to the symbol of Iraq's unity, Saddam Husayn.

Columnist Views Cabinet Reshuffle, 'Scrutiny Stage'

JN0706163594 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 1 Jun 94 p 1

[Article by Abu-Sarhan: "The Cabinet Reshuffle"]

[Text] Market observers noticed on Monday [30 May], that the price of the dollar has dropped to 350 dinars. Some people said it was offered for 320 dinars but nobody bought it. In addition, there has been a visible drop in the prices of all supplies. This clearly indicates that there is no scarcity of items, which would force prices up due to increasing demand. This means these supplies have not been affected by supply and demand. Otherwise, the prices would have remained stable in spite of the cabinet reshuffle. At any rate, even if some changes do occur, they would be slight and not sudden. This confirms our past arguments that the increase in the price of the dollar is not the outcome of the blockade or the supplies that enter the country and the human consumption of these supplies. Rather, it is our firm conviction that there is an integral system made up of a group of people who have sold out to the foreigner. This group represents around 20-30 percent; 70 percent of this misled group has been blinded by greed and a desire

to amass money. The group that makes up the 20-30 percent has foreign links, specifically with Saudi Arabia. This group manipulates the price of the dollar to bring about such an increase on the black market.

Therefore, and as a result of observing the financial market in al-Shurjah, we noticed yesterday, Tuesday [31 May], that a group of Kurdish traders, who are not well known, started to buy dollars at any price, paying 420 or 450 dinars, in an open attempt to raise the price of the dollar.

Here, we hope the security agencies and the Interior Ministry will work seriously and closely watch these developments. Had it not been for God's care for Iraq and its leader, many unexpected developments would have taken place.

The most important thing about the cabinet reshuffle, apart from the people's joy and the drop in prices, is that this reshuffle will make the source of decisions close to the executive tools, that is, close to the ministries and their leading personalities.

Another important point is that we should not judge the work of ministries until at least three months have elapsed, because the Iraqis are known for their initial rush, which soon subsides. These three months represent an observation stage to be followed by a scrutiny stage, which will reveal whether a certain ministry is really doing its job or is just posing for television.

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Prices

JN0706141894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers today.

During the meeting, his excellency stressed the need for the members of the Council of Ministers to directly follow up decisions and measures, to honor those who excel in applying them, to punish those who fail to apply them, and not to tolerate any poor performance or weakness in state-run institutions.

His excellency said: Ours is a state of the Ba'th Party and it should continue to enjoy the strength, enthusiasm, and vigor of youths.

His excellency also stressed the need to improve the standard of living of government employees, as well as the need to work out appropriate ways of transporting them to and from their departments and work sites and regulating office hours.

The Council also discussed a number of economic and organizational issues of interest to the citizens, and his excellency ordered that fruit and vegetable prices be watched carefully to guarantee balanced prices between producers and consumers.

His excellency called for developing and purifying seeds to plant them in a scientific way and to launch media campaigns to explain ways of preserving animal wealth.

Saddam Orders Increases in Sugar Beet Prices

JN0506141694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has ordered increases in the prices of sugar beets from 1,000 dinars per tonne as follows, depending on the percentage of sugar available in the sugar beet:

Sugar beets that are 15 percent sugar shall be purchased for 1,600 dinars per tonne. Sugar beets that are 14 percent sugar shall be purchased for 1,500 dinars per tonne. Sugar beets that are 13 percent sugar shall be purchased for 1,400 dinars per tonne. Sugar beets that are 12 percent sugar shall be purchased for 1,400 dinars per tonne. Sugar beets that 11 percent sugar shall be purchased for 1,100 dinars per tonne. Sugar beets that are 10 percent of sugar and below shall be purchased for 1,000 dinars per tonne.

INA Reports Recent Decrease in Food Prices

JN0506113994 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, June 5, INA—Prices of commodities particularly foodstuffs and vegetables have went down over the last few days since President Saddam Husayn has assumed premiership in addition to presidency.

Markets of vegetables and foodstuffs have seen a steady decrease in prices following the assumption of premiership by President Saddam Husayn.

Prices of vegetables have registered clear decrease, a kilo of tomatoes has decreased from 25 dinar to 12 ID [Iraqi dinar], while a kilo of potatoes went down to 30 ID while it was 50 ID, water melon price decreased from 80 to 30 ID per kilo. Also prices of foodstufffs such as cooking oil, sugar, flour and rice have gone down.

The increase in prices of commodities is attributed to the continuation of the sanctions which prevent Iraq from exporting its oil and eventually preventing it from importing even the foodstuffs.

The assumption of President Saddam Husayn to the premiership has led to this decrease in price of commodities.

Since his assumption of premiership, a few days ago the president has taken many steps to bring down prices.

The president has ordered to increase quotas of certain foodstuffs which are distributed by the government to every Iraqi within the ration system.

The amount of cooking oil increase of from 625 grams per capita per month to 750 grams. The president has also ordered the increase of the additional quota of

cooking oil granted by government to civil servants from 1.5 kilo to 2 kilos. [sentence as received]

Economic Crime Units Fight Price Violations

JN0306162894 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 31 May 94 p 4

[By Nabil al-Wadi and Latif al-Tayyib]

[Text] Interior Ministry inspectors have embarked on an intensive campaign covering major marketplaces in Baghdad's new areas: al-Hurriyah, al-Sadriyah, and the Malhani marketplace, as well as the vegetable marketplaces in al-Hillah, eastern al-Karradah, al-A'zamiyah, and al-Dawrah. On 28 and 29 May, AL-JUMHURIYAH noticed relative stability in prices and a rush by citizens to buy vegetables and fruit, which had seen prices skyrocket during the blessed 'Id al-Adha holidays. The price hikes were caused by the greed of shopkeepers and grocers who insist on maintaining this situation in the market, disregarding the suffering of citizens, especially low-income citizens.

At the beginning of their campaign, the men of the Economic Crime Combat Department made sure materials sold at the prices set by the state's agencies. In some cases, they took charge of direct selling to the public.

AL-JUMHURIYAH toured the main fruit and vegetable marketplaces. It noticed a drop in prices in comparison with the 'Id al-Adha prices. In interviews with AL-JUMHURIYAH, citizens expressed appreciation for this experience, hoping that prices will continue to drop or at least remain stable. Colonel Diya' Qaddah 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, chief of the Economic Crime Combat Department, spoke about the dimensions of the new campaign and its effective results to stabilize prices. He noted citizens' satisfaction with this campaign. He said that during the past two days, inspectors have reported many price violations, especially of vegetable and fruit prices. He said the fine for the first price violation has been set at 10,000 dinars. If the violation is repeated, the fine will be doubled. This is especially necessary because it has been noted that some vendors raise prices beyond normal ranges, overburdening low-income citizens. He told AL-JUMHURIYAH that the department has controlled the process of selling agricultural crops, obligating farmers to sell their crops at the marketing offices in accordance with official prices and under the supervision of economic crime combat men. He said this move has been effective in making available plenty of crops and commodities. He said this has resulted in increasing supply and reducing prices.

He said that this comprehensive campaign at marketplaces started after many citizens complained about conditions in the marketplaces and unjustifiable price increases. He said this campaign will continue "nonstop", to put an end to whoever is deluded into tampering with the people's subsistence. He said that during the past two days, inspectors closed 58 vegetable shops and confiscated their contents. They also seized large quantities of banned materials, such as imported cigarettes. Soft drinks factories, he noted, have been uncovered in many areas of Baghdad, especially in the al-Dawrah area. Samples of their products have been sent to laboratories to ensure their fitness for human consumption.

The colonel stressed that the objective of this campaign is to serve citizens and to end price violations and fraud in the marketplaces. He said the economic crime combat men have apprehended a large number of people who had impersonated economic security men, prompted by their greed to tamper with citizens' money and property. He said they had been wearing military uniform with guns on their waists, using vehicles similar to those used by the economic crime combat men, and carrying false identification.

The director of the Economic Crime Combat Department stressed to AL-JUMHURIYAH that all divisions of the department have been mobilized to implement the "new plan." The objective of this plan is to ease citizens' burdens, he noted. He said the coming days will witness true improvement in the situation, in terms of commodities availability, prices, and stability. He urged citizens to cooperate with inspectors by reporting violations and contacting the complaints section on 8878319 so immediate deterrent measures can be taken against violators.

Decree Authorizes Closing Shops of Price Violators

JN0206210694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a decree authorizing the party section command and the people's council in the regions to close wholesale and retail shops if their owners violate the prices announced by the state's competent agencies.

The following is the text of the decree:
In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate
The Republic of Iraq
The RCC
Decree No. 56

Dated 22 Dhu al-Hijjah, 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 2 June 1994

Decree

Based on the provisions of Paragraph A, Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decreed the following:

1. The party section command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the people's council in the region shall, separately, be given the following powers:

A. Closing wholesale and retail shops for six months if the owner of the shop—or anyone who is doing the selling on his behalf—violates the prices announced by the state's competent agencies. The party section command and the people's council may decide to detain the

owner at the police center in the region for no more than six months. The decisions stipulated in this paragraph shall be made by majority.

B. If the shopkeeper repeated the violation stipulated in A, the party's section command or the people's council in the region may decide, by majority, to close the shop and cancel the license given to him or any other license under which the shopkeeper is given permission to sell or buy, and detain him for 1 year.

2. The shopkeeper against whom a closure, cancellation of license, or detention decision is issued for any of the two violations stipulated in Paragraph A of this decree shall have the right to appeal the decision issued against him at the branch command regarding the decisions issued by the section command and at the higher command commission regarding the decisions issued by the people's councils. This is done by a written request made by the shopkeeper or his agent within a week of the issuance of the decision. The party to which an appeal is filed should review the contestation within one week of its filing. It has the right to cancel, amend, or endorse, by majority, the decision that was contested. Its decision shall then be final.

3. The section command or the people's council in the region shall communicate the decision that was adopted in accordance with Paragraph A to the police center in the region. A copy of the decision should also be sent directly to the police chief and to competent ministries through the Iraq Command Secretariat Office regarding the party sections and through the higher command commission regarding the people's councils.

4. The command of the party division and the people's council of the division shall assume the powers stipulated in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of this decree. Appealing its decisions shall be subject to the provisions of Paragraph 2.

5. The enforcement of the penalties stipulated in this decree shall not prevent the enforcement of penalties decided for these actions in other laws and decrees.

6. This decree shall take effect as of the day it is published in the official gazette on 3 June.

7. The competent ministers and relevant parties shall see to the implementation of the provisions of this decree.

Issued by the RCC

Saddam Orders Increase in Vegetable Oil Ration Quotas

JN0106114094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has ordered an increase in the ration quota of vegetable oil listed on the ration card, as well as the ration quota of vegetable oil supplied to the bearers of central market papers.

Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih told INA that leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has ordered the ration quota of vegetable oil listed on the ration card increased to 750 grams per month per person, instead of 625 grams. The president also ordered an increase in the family quota listed in the central market papers to 2 kg of vegetable oil per month instead of 1.5 kg. The order of the leader president, may God watch over him, shall be implemented as of today, 1 June 1994.

Iraqi Kurds Ask Iran To Mediate in Factional Clash

NC0506080794 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 May 94 p 2

[Special report: "Request for Mediation"]

[Text] Following the bloody clashes among the Iraqi Kurds, which started a month ago in northern Iraq and which has led to hundreds of deaths and wounded, recently Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party; Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan; and Shaykh 'Uthman 'Abd-al-'Aziz, leader of the Islamic Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan—the heads of the conflicting groups in northern Iraq—have requested officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to mediate in ending the bloodshed among them. This comes at a time when the Western forces deployed in northern Iraq are pretending that they have exerted great efforts to end the bloodshed! However, the Iraqi Kurds have documented proof in hand that shows that not only have the Western forces not taken any effective steps to this end, but they have been the major fomenter of these conflicts, hence their call for their leaders to ask the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to mediate in ending the bloodshed.

Barzani Interviewed on Disputes Between Kurds

PM0706103694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Kurdistan Democratic Party Leader Mas'ud Barzani by Zuhayr Qusaybati; place and date not given]

[Text] [Qusaybati] What is the latest on the security situation? Have the clashes and skirmishes stopped?

[Barzani] The security situation is moving toward relaxation. Efforts to disengage the forces are continuing in all areas. Everyone, with the participation of the Iraqi National Congress [INC] and the Kurdistan Front, is making commendable efforts to consolidate the cease-fire and separate the forces. These efforts have, to a large extent, been reflected on the ground.

[Qusaybati] What, in your view, is the way or the solution that would consolidate security?

[Barzani] I believe the solution that would consolidate security lies in faith in pluralism, democratic methods, and recourse to the people and to political dialogue to contain problems. I do not see any other solution. That is how it is with all democratic systems. The solution also lies in adherence to the decisions of the operations room and serious and responsible implementation of these decisions.

[Qusaybati] Do you really believe that a dispute over land is a good enough reason for an outbreak of fighting that is harmful to the region?

[Barzani] No, it is not a question of a piece of land. It has to do with ways of tackling problems and resolving a political matter, and it also has to do with the mobilization and education of cadres, and with the question of hegemony. At the beginning of the crisis I sent a cable to the [Patriotic] Union [of Kurdistan, PUK] and [Kurdistan] Democratic Party [KDP] officials in the Raniyah area, urging them both to act in unison to contain the problem in Qal'at Dizah, and I held them responsible for that. Contrary to my expectations, the PUK official in Raniyah dispatched a military force to Qal'at Dizah. And when a government delegation from both sides was in Raniyah, our forces' positions there were the target of occupation and looting.

Within three days, the fighting covered the areas of al-Sulaymaniyah and Karkuk. The PUK then moved its forces directly to Irbil. We can conclude from that that there was a premeditated plan. We have some evidence, which we do not wish to reveal now, supporting the theory of a military coup by the PUK. Despite the harm done to our forces, a meeting was held on 4 May and leadership committees were formed to normalize the situation in all areas, but these committees made no progress. After 4 May, we had to resort to positive defense to stop the excesses of the PUK forces.

[Qusaybati] Jalal Talabani has told AL-HAYAH that Iranian Revolutionary Guard elements supported the KDP fighters and "Revolutionary Hizballah" with artillery shelling. What is your reaction to that?

[Barzani] We have been hearing that a lot and we have also heard that some Iranian Revolutionary Guard members were taken prisoner. We called on the PUK at the time to show these captives on the television screen so that the Kurdish people would know. We have also read statements claiming that the PUK was the target of a comprehensive plot with the participation of Iran, Turkey, our party, and the Islamic Movement in Iraq. Then we read that Jalal Talabani had asked Iran to invite the PUK, our party, and the Islamic Movement to Tehran, and to mediate. And there were other statements. At any rate, I do not know of and have not seen any Iranian participation in this dispute.

[Qusaybati] Talabani's statements and confirmations by Iraqi opposition sources seem to indicate that he feared an attack on his motorcade on his return to Kurdistan (from Damascus), and this delayed his return. Do you believe these fears are serious?

[Barzani] We have been awaiting Talabani's return for three weeks and I see no justification for the delay. His presence would certainly facilitate the cease-fire and solve many problems. Many attempts were made to secure Talabani's return, and Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi (chairman of the INC Executive Council) and I sent a written message on 14 May assuring him that all precautions would be taken to ensure his safe return across the Syrian-Iraqi border.

Talabani wanted me to go to Zakhu to receive him. I have no objection to doing that, but I cannot leave my headquarters because of the situation and the efforts to consolidate the cease-fire. I told him that I would send a high-level delegation from the political bureaus of our party and the PUK to receive him. Fear of an attack on his motorcade in the area of Dahuk is unfounded. Treachery is not one of our characteristics.

[Qusaybati] The PUK has been critical of the 50/50 principle with your party (in jobs) and sees that as one of the factors contributing to the tension.

[Barzani] The 50/50 principle in the administration has caused major problems and has been one of the causes of tension. We believe that principle should be abolished in a democratic way, by going back to the people. We suggested that idea months ago and we promised to respect the result whatever it may be. The suggestions we made at our joint meetings calling for new elections were met with an extensive media campaign and other measures and manifestations reaching the point of direct aggression. Despite all that had happened, I did not expect matters to reach this dangerous level and did not expect a recourse to force to overturn the balances of power.

[Qusaybati] Turkey has announced that it is preparing for a meeting between you and Talabani. Do you see a need for such mediation?

[Barzani] Several friendly quarters have offered mediation. We viewed the Turkish initiative positively and a meeting was held between two delegations from the leaderships of our party and the PUK in Silobi. The meeting was positive. We are interested in all initiatives aimed at containing the crisis.

Three Clauses of Barzani-Talabani Agreement Reported

PM0706135294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jun 94 p 4

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Barzani and Talabani Agree To Halt Armed Conflict"]

[Excerpts] London—The Iraqi Kurdish leaders Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani have agreed to end the fighting that continued between their militias during the

past month and to eliminate the effects of the most extensive armed clashes Iraqi Kurdish areas have witnessed since they were placed under UN protection in the spring of 1991.

Barzani and Talabani held a meeting the day before yesterday in Irbil, capital of the Kurdish region. It is the first meeting since the armed confrontations broke out early in May. [passage omitted] The two Kurdish leaders' agreement includes three clauses:

—A total cease-fire in all areas, including the areas adjacent to the border with Iran in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate (where Patriotic Union of Kurdistan militias clashed with groups of Kurdish Islamists)

—To form an operations room for the border areas, to consolidate the cease-fire there. This room should include representatives from Barzani's party, Talabani's party, the Unified Iraqi National Congress, the Kurdistan Front, and the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan.

—To hold similar meetings later to solve outstanding problems, fully normalize conditions, and eliminate the effects of last month's events in various spheres.

Independent Kurdish sources believe that Barzani's and Talabani's meeting "was necessary to halt the Kurdish fighting." However, they warned of the eruption of "further clashes" in the future "if the two parties do not backtrack on their monopolization of power" in Iraqi Kurdistan "and reorganize conditions to form a (local) parliament and a government in which all parties are represented."

Talabani Supports Barzani's Call for Disarmament

NC0706172394 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] In an interview with KURDISTAN NWAY, which will be published tomorrow, Wednesday, brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], said disarmament is essential. He added: We hope that Kurdistan will become a region where only the regular forces carry arms in defense of our borders.

Asked to comment on Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barzani's proposal for the disarmament of Iraq's Kurdistan and its protection by the international community, brother Talabani said the PUK is ready to take the necessary steps to implement this sacred objective. He added: It is essential that we ourselves take this step under the supervision of the Kurdistan region government. We could form a committee made up of the interior minister, minister of the peshmerga affairs, and the director of the police corps to achieve this objective, he added.

Brother Talabani pointed out that expediting the normalization of the situation and ensuring the return of security and order to the sons of our people in Kurdistan would contribute to creating the atmosphere and necessary grounds for establishing the rule of law, democracy, and human rights.

PUK Sources Deny Sending Envoy to Baghdad

PM0706155094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "Talabani Meets With Barzani To Confirm Reconciliation and the Islamists Accuse Him of Negotiating With Baghdad"]

[Excerpts] London—The Islamic Movement has renewed its campaign against the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] led by Jalal Talabani, and it has accused the latter of sending a delegation to Baghdad to resume negotiations with the Iraqi Government. Talabani was due to meet yesterday with Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] Leader Mas'ud Barzani, his partner in the Kurdistan Front [KF] leadership, at the Shirin Palace Hotel in Shaqlawah for the first time since the fighting broke out between their two parties about a month ago. The fighting is believed to have left hundreds of casualties in northern Iraq. The purpose of the meeting is to confirm the reconciliation between the two parties. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, PUK sources have denied that Talabani sent an envoy to Baghdad to negotiate with the Iraqi Government. The Islamic Movement in Kurdistan had claimed that the Kurdish leader had sent Shaykh 'Abd-al-Latif al-Barzanji to Baghdad on 22 May and that the efforts of the latter, which coincided with the Kurdish infighting, made no progress.

The sources said "al-Barzanji is an Irbil merchant who has no links with the PUK." [passage omitted]

Kurds Continue To Fight in North; 600 Killed

NC0706211894 Istanbul SABAH in Turkish 6 Jun 94 p 14

[Text] The fighting between the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] in northern Iraq has not ended, regardless of the many cease-fire agreements the two sides have reached until now. Although the sides have claimed that they are heeding the latest cease-fire agreement, an official of the National Congress of Iraq, which is made up of several groups that are opposed to Saddam Husayn, has said that uninterrupted clashes are continuing in Halabjah. The official, who prefers to remain anonymous, has said that at least 600 persons have been killed in the clashes thus far, the great majority of whom supported the PUK.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that DPK Leader Mas'ud Barzani and PUK leader Jalal Talabani have been unable to draw up an agreement to end the fighting.

The Western countries headed by the United States established an autonomous region in northern Iraq when

Saddam Husayn moved against the Kurds after the Gulf War ended. The DPK and PUK took part in the parliament of the Kurdish administration with equal strength after the elections in 1992. The dispute between the two sides broke out on 1 May. An international effort has been made to establish a basis for peace between the two sides. Turkey has contributed toward that effort. However, the initiatives that have been made have failed to yield results thus far.

KDP, Islamic Movement Seize 2 Key Towns From PUK

LD0706185194 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Sanandaj (Kurdistan Prov.), June 7, IRNA—The north eastern Iraqi cities of Banjwin and Qal'at Dizah have been taken over by forces loyal to Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Islamic Movement Party (IMP) on Tuesday [7 June].

According to an IMP spokesman scores of forces of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) were killed or injured in the clashes with the joint forces.

Latest dispatches from the area indicate that leaders of the warring groups are to start first round of their official talks in erbil on wednesday under supervision of the so-called iraqi national congress—a loose grouping of various factions opposed to the regime in Baghdad—to end the ongoing power struggle in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Irbil, the second major Kurdish city after Karkuk, has been declared capital of Iraqi Kurdistan by the self-proclaimed government of Kurds. The city is 15 kms away from the buffer zone which separates Kurdish controlled areas from the Iraqi forces.

Secret Messages Reportedly Exchanged With Syria

TA0706195994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive for another shuttle mission between Israel and Syria toward the end of the month. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that the political echelons were notified of this by the State Department. Our correspondent further learned that, in the meantime, peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross and his aides continue delivering secret messages between the leaders of Israel and Syria in an attempt to reach agreements and establish a better basis for the success of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to our region.

At the same time, Israeli sources denied the reports from Jordan regarding an arrangement that was allegedly reached on a withdrawal from the Golan. The sources said that the road to an agreement with Syria is still long. They believe that the report from Amman was designed to justify the Jordanian decision to resume the peace negotiations with Israel.

Minister Yosi Sarid said today that it can be assumed that the negotiations with Syria will resume in the near future, and it may be that the next round of talks will be more promising than the preceding ones. Mr. Sarid made the remarks during a tour of the Golan, and our correspondent Moti Eden heard him there.

Beilin: Christopher Decision To Visit 'Symbolic'

TA0806073694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will not appoint an envoy to serve as an intermediary between Israel and Syria but will continue to handle the negotiations between the two countries himself. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Secretary of State Christopher has recently become more active with regard to the negotiations between Syria and Israel. There are apparently several reasons for this, including domestic ones. The reports, for example, that Christopher may be asked to vacate his post are also spurring him to make greater efforts. Dennis Ross is not exactly popular in Syria, with the end result being both overt and covert activity by the secretary of state. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin is optimistic. He believes that there is a wide base for promoting the negotiations between Syria and Israel.

[Beilin] The United States has been very active with both parties on promoting the Syrian-Israeli track over the past few weeks since the last round of talks, mainly through telephone calls and by using the media. I think that we shall see additional process prior to Christopher's impending visit. Any progress made, as well as any U.S. involvement, will hopefully lead to additional progress because we now have an unprecedented basis for negotiations: a readiness by both Syria and Israel to talk about peace as well as withdrawal on the Golan Heights, together with an acceptance by both sides of U.S. involvement. This is a precedent that definitely should be taken advantage of.

[Raz] What can we deduce from the fact that Christopher has decided to handle the negotiations himself for the time being and not appoint an envoy as previously intended?

[Beilin] I do not know any details about such an intention. It is true that the idea of a special envoy to the Middle East has been raised on numerous occasions. However, the secretary of state apparently decided to continue handling the negotiations personally and that is certainly important because the more senior the envoy the greater the chances of success.

[Raz] Could we witness a breakthrough in the next round of talks? Are contacts behind the scenes creating the basis for such a breakthrough?

[Beilin] I hope so, but I do not think that it is any specific round of talks that can lead to a breakthrough. A real breakthrough can only come in the wake of ongoing and deeper U.S. involvement, which comprises more than just visits of senior officials to the region. I think that the secretary of state's decision to make a special trip to the Middle East to deal with the Syrian-Israeli track and not as the aftermath to a visit to Europe or Turkey is symbolic in itself and apparently indicates that the United States will now devote separate time to our issue.

[Raz] Christopher, however, still has a great deal of work in store for him. There has been no change in the parties' positions. Nothing has actually happened. Syria has still not issued a reply to the detailed plan submitted by Israel through the Americans. Nevertheless, there is a sense of impending developments in the air. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 8 June in a similar report by political correspondent Udi Segal adds that "officials in Jerusalem hope that the Americans bring new ideas to promote the negotiations and succeed in extracting a few answers from Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad regarding the Israeli proposals. As for Syria's latest demand that Israel abrogate the Golan Law, sources in the prime minister's bureau said that would not be necessary because any agreement reached between the two countries which contravened the Golan Law would have to be approved by the Knesset, thus abrogating the law."]

Commentator Urges Genuine Negotiations With Syria

TA0606193194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jun 94 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Syria at the 11th Hour"]

[Text] Because the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] operation against Hizballah was so daring and successful, Israel must show that it is really interested in a dialogue with Syria. The government assumes that terrorism can be fought without silencing the political process, and following the Air Force attack, the time has come to test this concept. The problem is that even prior to Mustafa al-Dirani's capture and the attack on the terrorists in Lebanon's al-Biqa', there were blanks on the political radar Jerusalem directed at Damascus.

It is true that Yitzhaq Rabin did not promise Husni Mubarak that his government would be prepared to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights, but he led the Egyptian president to believe Israel is ready for such a move. That is a wise and dangerous move. It reflects a complex situation for a statesman feeling around for an Archimedes level in diplomacy to signal to his enemy his willingness to pay a high price for peace, but not any price.

Rabin can permit such brinkmanship after accumulating with Shim'on Peres a lot of credit in the negotiations with the Palestinians. Just as Likud leaders know they cannot bring the right-wing masses out to demonstrate against an evacuation of Gaza and Jericho, they also know that had the prime minister proposed a peace accord based on a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights the minority coalition in the Knesset would have received majority support among the people.

Warren Christopher's entourage told Hafiz al-Asad precisely that. When he complained about Rabin linking any withdrawal to a national referendum, he was told that in their view, the prime minister has the power to align a majority for his position. Al-Asad silently agreed with that. It seems that the only one who cannot gauge the level of credit at his disposal is Rabin himself. He sees the situation as made up of both light and shade. He is first interested in giving al-Asad the feeling that there are no free meals, and therefore Israel will express no regrets if Christopher does not make haste to take off in the first flight to the Middle East. On that there is full coordination between Jerusalem and Washington.

That understanding is part of the overall perspective that Bill Clinton's administration will not impose a solution on Israel, which al-Asad must be convinced of in order to understand that the negotiations must be conducted with Rabin and Peres.

Under those conditions, Jerusalem responds incorrectly by emphasizing that Syria lacks a military option against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The government believes that Damascus has the clout to harass and support terrorism, but not to score a strategic victory. Modern history is full of such misguided declarations, like those made by Golda Me'ir and Moshe Dayan at the time. Rabin and Peres were a part of that team and should remember, given their positions in the top leadership. So why repeat the mistake?

Just like in those bad years, Jerusalem is developing a lexicon of dangerous terms to hold up the process. At the time, the Israelis aspersed to Henry Kissinger and Joseph Sisco that Yasir 'Arafat will never recognize Israel's right to exist, therefore there is nobody to talk to on the Palestinian side. This was until we heard 'Arafat's famous "caduc," embarrassing Jerusalem. Warren Christopher and Dennis Ross are now being told that al-Asad is not Anwar al-Sadat.

The disparity is as long as the negotiations themselves: The Egyptian got things going by stepping off in Jerusalem, and the Syrian stays clear of it. Al-Sadat agreed to the withdrawal starting without the uprooting of settlements in Sinai, al-Asad refuses to hear of such a possibility. What can be done, Jerusalem asks with glee, if Damascus refuses to adopt the Camp David model?

But that is a mistake. One day al-Asad will get up and fully adopt the Camp David technique after adapting it geographically to the northern border, and Rabin's arguments and Peres' diplomatic arrows will become empty cliches in one blow.

The prime minister is mistaken in waiting for processes to develop in Israel and the Arab world. He and Peres have the backing and power to advance the negotiations. Since in my view, they have already accepted in their hearts the concept that any peace with Syria depends on a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, they will gain almost nothing by sticking to the approach that it has no chance of being approved. No delaying tactics will lead Damascus to give up part of its territory.

The horse trading has to be conducted by sticking in principle to the Camp David accords and adapting it to Israel's special defense needs in the north. There is also another important parallel: Rabin rightly claimed recently that the accord with the PLO was completed five minutes before midnight, not five minutes after. He just has to continue the parallel: Why does the agreement with Syria also have to be made under tough conditions? If the initiative and political credit exist, then it can be agreed upon at the 11th hour. It is a blatant case of the saying: the sooner the better.

Peres Addresses Knesset on 'Letter' to 'Arafat

TA0706174094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Address by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to the Knesset—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Regarding the letter: I have written no letter to 'Arafat. I made no promises to 'Arafat or to the PLO. I never promised to establish new Christian institutes. Since I am certain Knesset Member [MK] Matza feels strongly about Jerusalem, I suggest that we do not tell the whole world that here in the Knesset there are people who are willing to give up on

Jerusalem. This is totally unfounded. Jerusalem is dear to us all, and I am speaking to MK Ze'evi as well. [passage omitted]

I would like to describe the Israeli Government stand—past, present, and future—regarding Jerusalem. According to the view, stand, and action of the Israeli Government, Jerusalem will not be divided, and we will accept no division of Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be no Berlin; no wall will be erected in it and it will not be split in two. It will remain united, according to the map the Knesset ratified, under Israeli sovereignty. It will not be part of the autonomy, and the autonomy institutions will not be run from Jerusalem. This is our position, and this is the purpose of our struggle. Before I start debating with the Likud, I would like to tell MK 'Imanu'el Zismann: The problem with Jerusalem is that there are two religious worlds that hold Jerusalem sacred—the Christian and the Muslim worlds. I believe we reached a truly historical agreement with the Vatican in Jerusalem as it is—united, Israel's capital, under Israeli sovereignty. This kind of event takes place once in every 1994 years, and it happened this January. Also, we want to tell the Muslims that we have no intention of hurting their religious feelings or institutions; not theirs, not the Christians', and there is no need to mention the Jews because this is our capital. It is self evident.

We made a supreme effort to salvage Jerusalem from the autonomy, and everything we see is the result of an effort, not just a story about how someone tried to fix this, that, or the other. We did not want to fix anything. To the best of my knowledge—and I know about this more than anyone—we came up with the idea of Jericho only to avoid the demand that the autonomy institutions—some of which already were in Jerusalem—be placed in Jerusalem. I am very sorry that people here mix various political matters together. Not everything is a document. When negotiations are held notes, documents, and things are exchanged.

I would want to tell MK Dan Meridor: There is no question of credibility; there is a debate over interpretations. Dan, with all due respect, your interpretation is totally unfounded. The document does not speak of institutions that will be established. As a lawyer and one who speaks of honesty, you should be honest. No commitment was made to the PLO or to 'Arafat. This is an attempt by the opposition to portray the government stand in reverse. I do not mind you doing that, only it does not bolster Jerusalem.

Now I would like to comment on what 'Arafat said, why Minister Shahal denied it, and why it is credible. In Johannesburg, 'Arafat said that he did not want to sign the document in Cairo before he receives a letter about Jerusalem. But the letter had existed before Cairo. It was no accident that the letter was written to Holst. It was written to Holst to tell 'Arafat: You have nothing to do with this. No commitment was made to 'Arafat regarding institutions that will be established in the future. The letter only describes the state of affairs as it was when the letter was written. There are thousands of letters in the Foreign Ministry; do you want me to disclose them all? This is not a document; this is a letter. MK Meridor should know the difference between the two. The letter was not written to 'Arafat to avoid establishing a link between Jerusalem and 'Arafat. The words PLO or PLO institutions do not exist in the letter. It mentions East Jerusalem because it does not pertain to the autonomy. You are making an attempt to reverse the facts.

Now, why Shahal was right. 'Arafat said three things that are not true: One, that he did sign in Cairo because he was given a letter in Cairo; no letter was given to him in Cairo. Two, 'Arafat was given no letter regarding Jerusalem. Third, the things that were written to Holst were stated from this podium as well. [as heard] [passage omitted]

Hence, I hereby determine that nothing was kept secret from the Knesset; that nothing was promised to the PLO; that no letter was sent to 'Arafat. There is a matter of interpretation and I would like to say clear things about this as well. Several reporters were offended, and thus they joined those charging us with a lack of credibility. There is no credibility problem. We spoke the truth. When things were presented to the Knesset, there was no such letter. Had there been one, we would probably have appended it to the documents despite the fact that it is a letter and not a document. This letter was not marked secret, confidential, or top secret. It was published as it is. [passage omitted]

I would like to add one more thing. If the Palestinians attempt to establish a political authority beyond that which existed when the letter was written, they have no [word indistinct] to do so. If they are illegal, they will be canceled.

[Passage omitted] With the permission of the speaker, I would like to opine that the world today is divided along different lines than in the past. Almost all matters of importance have no boundaries. Almost all of those that have boundaries, their boundaries lost much of their importance. What are the important things in our world today? Science, technology, economy, ecology, and freedom, and they have no boundaries. In fact, even strategy today is measured in ballistic boundaries more than by geographic borders.

Furthermore, as a result of the borders' losing their value and the rising value of relations, the three major factors of international policy making lost much of their importance. The three were political parties, armies, and superpowers. Almost all of the events in the past decade took place without the three. Russian Communism collapsed not due to military operations, the establishment of a party, or superpowers's intervention. A communist and television toppled communism. In South Africa, a tremendous event took place: The black rights were made equal to those of the whites, ending skin color as a racist distinction. This was done without superpowers,

armies, or parties. Peronism was toppled by a Peronist. Here in this region as well, most of the work was done without armies, superpowers, or parties.

I say that there are many conclusions to be drawn from this. The question is where Israel is headed? Backwards or forward? If Israel wants to move toward the world that has completely changed, if we want to buy the correct admission ticket, we need bulldozers to move the conservatives among us to see the world as it is.

I would like to tell the religious MK's sitting in front of me: I believe the most difficult struggle for us in the next century would be to preserve Israel's tradition and uniqueness. It will be no less difficult a struggle than defending our borders. To me, the Jewish nation is based on homeland and tradition. We must prepare for both, and we will do that with the utmost possible stamina. I know that in this ever changing world, Israel could not have found its right place had it not changed itself. What we did in Jericho and Gaza is a historical and realistic enterprise of the first rank which gives Israel the necessary fuel to march in this changing world and defend our historic values, land, the Jewish nation and the residents of Israel. [passage omitted]

Mr. Speaker, honorable Knesset: I will now answer the query by MK Ya'aqov Shefi [on the relations with the new Italian Government]. It is inconceivable for Israel to make compromises with fascism, racism, dictatorship, and discrimination of any kind. The problem is how one goes about examining this in complex cases. How do you distinguish between the policy of a government and policies attributed to some of its members? At the same time, I would like to say something that is not very pleasant. Unfortunately, on more than one occasion in the past we were forced to make compromises with these principles. We maintained diplomatic relations with a country that professed racism in the most formal way, namely apartheid. We had relations with countries that were ran by ugly dictatorships with cruel murderers at their helm, such as the USSR. I have not yet recovered from this. We have very complicated problems being the Jewish nation and the State of Israel. I will not lie. We are trying hard to observe those principles, but—and not only us—countries maintain diplomatic relations not because they are in love with some other countries, but because they believe diplomatic relations would distance the threat and pressure that country to change its policy. [passage omitted]

As for the question from MK David Magen [regarding the possible establishment of a Palestinian state]. Let me tell you: The problem was born in the Camp David accords. That was the first time the State of Israel gave the Palestinians the title of the Palestinian people [last three words in English]. When you create a Palestinian people, it is like asking that this nation demand a Palestinian state. I would also like to say that anyone believing you can hold 120,000 people in prison without them crystallizing into a nation is wrong. Had we remained in Gaza, the number would have grown even further. Therefore, I have been and am opposed to a Palestinian state, I am for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. I have never made my position secret, nor did I ever change it. I am only telling you that the first time autonomy was introduced—full autonomy for the Palestinian people and their right requirements [last 10 words in English]—it was done in the Camp David accords. Do not run away from this. Be honest once and for all. [passage omitted]

I would like to thank MK Dalya Itzik for her question regarding the missiles in North Korea. The United States has warned us that one cannot trust North Korea in either word or in deed. It said that, considering the U.S. strength and comparing it with ours, we should allow it to head the campaign against the building of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles and selling them to other countries. You are asking me, in terms of political logic, who is better suited to head this campaign, the United States or Israel. I will tell you, after seriously considering the answer, it is better that the United States do this. And it does. The United States has now garnered the support of the United Nations. This struggle concerns us all, and we trust them. We have no reason to doubt the United States. We know the U.S. intentions, we see its acts, and I welcome everything it does. [passage omitted]

Peres on Charges of Omitted Excerpt in Holst Letter

TA0706193594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Begin raised the suspicion that an excerpt has been omitted from Foreign Minister Peres' letter to Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst on the Jerusalem issue. MK Begin told Qol Yisra'el that the second clause in the letter does not follow from the first clause, and unless this is a mere stylistic defect, it is possible that a clause has been omitted.

Foreign Minister Peres reacted to this charge by saying that no clause has been omitted and the entire letter was published verbatim. Mr. Peres added that the Likud people realize that the letter does not harm Jerusalem's status in any way whatsoever, therefore they pick at it and raise false charges.

Halakhic Edict Rules 'Arafat 'Deserves to Die'

TA0806111694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Rabbi Shlomo Goren [former chief army chaplain] has once again published a halakhic edict pertaining to political affairs; this time with regard to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. In his halakhic edict, Rabbi Goren contends that Yasir 'Arafat deserves to die according to both Israeli and international law, because he has declared a jihad. Our correspondent Gil Litman

reports that the halakhic ruling is included in a communique published by the Committee of Jewish rabbis in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Editorial Advocates Closing Orient House

TA0306142594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jun 94 p B1

[Editorial: "From Tunis to Jericho"]

[Text] Disclosure of the foreign minister's letter to the PLO leader through the Norwegian foreign minister contradicts the assertions of Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres that everything pertaining to the Oslo agreement has been put on the table and that there are no secret documents. No criticism should be spared from the prime minister and the foreign minister for not having spoken the truth. Small wonder that now we ask ourselves whether all the details of the foreign minister's letter to 'Arafat were fully disclosed. In spite of our doubts, let us assume for one moment that the letter does not contain anything other than a long quote from the foreign minister's address to the Knesset on 9 September 1993. If so, why did he keep it secret until Yasir 'Arafat disclosed its existence and contents?

The PLO leader demanded a pledge from Israel that it would maintain what he termed the "status quo" in Jerusalem and the status of the Palestinian institutions in the city prior to the discussions about Jerusalem's permanent status. Peres chose not to speak about "Palestinian" institutions, and instead elaborated on the freedom of religious worship and Israel's willingness to recognize the importance and significance of Jerusalem to followers of the monotheistic faiths. Nevertheless, it could be inferred from his speech/letter that the term "status quo" applies to institutions that have no religious or cultural mission; Peres also mentioned "other institutions" and the orderly functioning of "the relevant institutions and systems."

'Arafat's allegation that he signed the Cairo agreement on early empowerment of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and in the Jericho area only thanks to the Israeli foreign minister's letter concerning Jerusalem leads us to believe that he was seeking to guarantee the continued presence of a Palestinian political center in Jerusalem; namely, the building in the eastern side of the city known as Orient House. Had Peres publicized his letter immediately after he sent it there might have been no controversy. However, because he kept it secret and even denied its existence, the letter is now seen as a political concession on the part of Israel.

Regardless Israel conceded to the Palestinians when it agreed in Oslo that the question of Jerusalem would be dealt with in the negotiations about the permanent arrangement. Although the Israeli delegation extracted the mention of the settlements in the same clause of the agreement in exchange—that is, the continued existence of the settlements until the end of the negotiations about the permanent arrangement—the government must now defend itself against allegations that it placed the unity of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as an open question on the negotiating table.

Against this background there is room to question whether the operation of Orient House, as we have known it in recent years, is still tolerable. Its contribution as a liaison between the Palestinians here and the PLO leadership in Tunis was quite limited. The PLO leadership is expected to move to Gaza or Jericho, and the Israeli Government does no longer need any Palestinian institution as an intermediary. When the PLO leadership relocates to Gaza or Jericho, the bunch of wheelers-dealers that had to date worked out of Jerusalem will lose its stature.

The continued and heightened operation of Orient House might give the impression that Israel has come to terms with a situation in which its tenants are allowed to behave as if they were a Palestinian self-rule outside Gaza and Jericho. Israel should not agree to the creation of such an image and should take action to prevent it. The PLO leadership, with which we will have to negotiate an interim and a permanent arrangement, should not sit in any part of Jerusalem. As long as it has not been agreed otherwise, it can relocate from Tunis to either Gaza or Jericho.

If 'Arafat sees Peres' letter as corroborating his argument that Orient House, at whatever level of political activity, can come under the banner "other institutions," the foreign minister must alert him to his error.

TIPH Spokesman Denies Intention To Leave Hebron

TA0706160794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jun 94 p A4

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] TIPH [Temporary International Presence in Hebron] commanders two days ago decided to change the force's mode of deployment when there are clashes in the city between Palestinian youths and the Israeli security forces.

TIPH commanders decided that during future clashes its teams will deploy far away from the confrontation sites while preserving their ability to monitor events in order to avoid involvement in the incidents and to prevent damage to their cars.

Based on the agreement between Israel and the PLO, TIPH teams so far deployed near incidents sites in order to follow events closely and report on them.

It often happened, however, that TIPH presence caused the Palestinian youths to exacerbate the confrontation with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in order to prove to the international observers and world public opinion that the Israelis are behaving brutally.

TIPH spokesman (Bjarno Sorensson) denied that TIPH commander Kjell Johannesson is about to ask the Norwegian, Italian, and Danish governments—who supplied the manpower to the force—to withdraw the force from Hebron. "Our situation is difficult, but nobody promised us an easy life here, and we will remain. If we leave, one side will suffer, and this is the weak side—the Palestinians whom we came to help. We will not turn our backs on them just because we have failed to attain our objective more quickly," Sorensson said.

Palestinian sources in Hebron claim that TIPH's presence in the city contributes nothing toward improving the Palestinians' situation and protecting them from IDF forces. They claim that the observers are obeying the IDF's orders banning them from patrolling the city when it is under curfew.

The observers are greatly frustrated by the Palestinians' claims and by entering situations in which they could be stoned or wounded by IDF gunfire. The observers claim that the Palestinians are using them for propaganda purposes, whereas the IDF is limiting their movement. [passage omitted]

Electricity Supply to Gaza To Continue

TA0606045294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Israel will continue supplying the Gaza Strip with electricity for the next few months. Autonomy officials asked the Electric Company to do so until its own independent source of electricity is set up. A ship outfitted with turbines is expected to anchor off the coast of Gaza in three to six months, providing most of Gaza's electric needs. The Civil Administration has paid Israel's Electric Company 40 million shekels to cover the Strip's debt.

Water Losses Said Possible From Border Adjustments

TA0606044794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The water commissioner has warned that the border adjustments demanded by Jordan in the 'Arava could lead to the loss of water sources vital to Israel. He told our correspondent Shula Schmerling that the reservoir of ground water in the 'Arava meets the consumption needs of the settlements in the area, which amount to approximately 40 million cubic meters per year. The water commissioner clarified that at the Washington talks, Israel will demand that all the outstanding water problems with Jordan, including the question of the al-Yarmuk River, the Jordan River, and the 'Arava, be discussed as one package.

Jordan's Rejection of Israeli Arab Visit Reported

TA0506113394 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Muhammad Khalayla]

[Excerpts] Over the weekend, the Jordanian authorities did not allow a delegation of Israeli Arabs from the triangle area to visit their country. Twenty-three people joined the delegation headed by Jalal Abu-Husayn, Labor's party secretary in Baqa al-Gharbiyya. After receiving permission from the Israeli authorities to travel to Jordan, the delegation met on Jordanian soil with Ratib 'Amr, the minister in charge of the occupied territories [name and title as published], who allegedly told them that King Husayn and Prince Hasan were out of the country. Seeing that you are here to see the king to offer him your condolences on the death of his mother there is no sense in your visit, 'Amr is said to have told them. [passage omitted]

It has been learned from sources close to King Husayn in East Jerusalem that the king actually was in Jordan but decided not to grant an audience to the delegation when it transpired that they did not represent the Israeli Arab community and were affiliated with the Labor party. Furthermore, the sources noted, the visit was banned in view of reports on Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew and Arabic that the delegation was carrying a political message to the king from Israeli government sources.

Jalal Abu-Husayn would not say whether he had been bearing a political message. Waqf Council sources in East Jerusalem (who arranged the visit of previous delegations) made it categorically clear that the Jordanian authorities were no longer interested in the arrival of condolence delegations calling on the king.

Peres on Need To View Italian Government Policies

TA0806070194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the Israeli Embassy in Rome was checking the positions of the neofascist ministers in the new Italian Government on questions related to Jews and anti-Semitism. Peres told the Knesset that the policy of the new government should be examined before reaching any decisions on the future of relations with Italy. Peres added that the deep friendship between the two countries must also be taken into account. Foreign Minister Peres will meet his Italian counterpart next week to discuss bilateral relations.

Transportation Dispute Results in U.S. Sanctions

TA0606171694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jun 94 p A6

[Report by tourism affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpts] Senior Transportation Ministry officials are examining the possibility of abrogating the present aviation agreement between Israel and the United States and demanding that a new aviation agreement be negotiated with the Americans. The sources claim that the conditions of the present agreement discriminate against

Israel and enable the Americans to carry out an unlimited number of flights to Israel.

Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar yesterday held an emergency meeting after U.S. aviation authorities announced their decision to implement sanctions against Israel by canceling three weekly El Al flights to the United States starting two weeks from today. This will reduce the number of weekly El Al flights to the United States from 20 to 17. U.S. aviation authorities also plan to ban El Al from flying to various destinations inside the United States.

The Americans announced their intention to impose sanctions against Israel after the Israeli Transportation Ministry refused the request of U.S. airline World Airways to hold three regular weekly flights on the New York-Tel Aviv line.

Qeysar summoned El Al director general Rafi Harlev and the heads of the Civil Aviation Administration to the consultation. The ministry's legal adviser also attended the meeting.

In the meeting, Minister Qeysar sharply criticized the manner in which Israel was informed about the sanctions against El Al. He said that last week a representative of the American airline came to his Knesset office, and that even before he was able to brief the airline management about his meeting with Qeysar, the U.S. Department of Transportation decided to announce sanctions against El Al.

Following the consultation Qeysar decided to send a letter to U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena requesting that, in accordance with U.S. law, a 30-day extension be granted before the sanctions against El Al are implemented. The same law states that another 60-day extension is possible before sanctions are implemented. [passage omitted]

The transportation minister will travel to the United States for talks with the U.S. transportation secretary and other senior administration officials late this month. In these meetings Qeysar will apparently demand that the current Israel-American aviation agreement be abrogated. [passage omitted]

Qeysar said yesterday: "Approximately two weeks ago the U.S. transportation secretary and myself agreed that no steps be taken against El Al until our meeting in Washington late this month, but unfortunately this did not help."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1500 GMT on 6 June carries a recorded passage of Minister Qeysar answering a question about the dispute with World Airways, in which he says that "we are now negotiating to find some compromise. We just finished a conversation overseas with the representative of World Airways, and we are going to reach a compromise. We don't want any war with the Americans, because they are our best allies. We have no reason to have a conflict with the Americans."] [passage omitted]

Prime Minister on International, Domestic Issues

JN0706201294 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 6 Jun 94 p 25

[By 'Umar Kallab]

[Text] In a three-hour meeting held in the portrait gallery of the Parliament House, Prime minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali presented explanations to House members and answered their questions. Reactions differed on the meeting. While some House members regarded it as successful and satisfactory, others said it was an ordinary meeting in which nothing new was presented. House Member 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah asked reporters to rest because there was nothing new for them.

AKHIR KHABAR acquired the text of the dialogue at the portrait gallery. Speaker Tahir al-Masri welcomed the prime minister, saying he hoped the meeting would succeed and that the prime minister would give the members satisfactory answers to their questions, whose highlights had been discussed outside the gallery. Al-Masri confined the questions to five points: inter-Arab relations, particularly Jordan's relations with Egypt, Syria, and Yemen; Jordanian-Palestinian relations; public liberties; the mechanism of employment in the government; and the Washington tripartite talks.

Al-Masri concluded by emphasizing his request that the members of the House be thoroughly briefed.

Al-Majali began by speaking about Jordanian-Egyptian relations, voicing great satisfaction with the recent Egyptian-Jordanian talks and the agreements reached, saying that Egypt treated Jordan with high esteem and that issues are proceeding very well and that Jordan is continually following up the implementation of these agreements by telephone.

On Jordanian-Syrian relations, al-Majali said that during his majesty's recent visit to Syria, Jordan was surprised when the Syrians demanded more than coordination, alluding to a form of unity. Jordan voiced its firm stand on such issue, pointing out that it is prepared to promote relations with the Syrian brothers provided a calm and objective study is made first in order to make any form of a union a success. On the Syrian-Israeli track, al-Majali said "it seems" that the Syrians have covered a good measure of coordination with the United States and it was obvious from their talks that things are proceeding well on the Syrian track.

On the Jordanian stand on the Yemeni crisis and the official media position, which some of the House members regarded as biased in favor of the north, al-Majali said: We take sides only with unity and legitimacy. Unity has been democratically chosen by the Yemeni people and we respect it.

Al-Majali criticized 'Ali Salim al-Bid, explaining to the House members that when he came to Amman to sign the Pledge and Accord Agreement, al-Bid was accompanied by his wife and children. However, he kept them on the plane and alighted alone. He said that al-Bid's talks with his majesty continued until 0200 in the morning. Al-Majali said that al-Bid was so late in coming that Prince Hasan took him from the airport by helicopter to gain time and that his delay was intended to rob the negotiations of the needed time and prevent a discussion of all issues. This shows that al-Bid did not want unity. This was basis of the Jordanian position.

Al-Majali rejected al-Bid's charges and accusations that Jordan assisted the north and affirmed Jordan's clear stand on this issue.

Al-Majali then spoke about the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, declaring his dissatisfaction with what is happening. He said the talks now are not on the desired level. Meetings are held then working committees are formed. Jordan names its committee members but the PLO stalls and does not name its committee members. In the latest meeting, talks lasted until midnight and issues were proceeding satisfactorily but the head of the Palestinian delegation, Ahmad Quray', asked the head of the Jordanian delegation to give him some time to consult with the leadership in Tunis. They went and never returned to sign what had been agreed upon.

On the issue of public liberties, al-Majali stressed the importance of internal security and said that his government gives it its utmost concern. He said: I do not deny that there are certain excesses here or there but the government is determined to respect liberties. He said the number of those detained by the intelligence department is 20 and that the department assured him that the moment they are interrogated, those who prove to be innocent will be released and the others will be referred to court. He said the department has allowed their relatives to visit them.

On the issue of civil service appointments, al-Majali said the government explained this in the press and said that the civil service appointments system will be revised. He noted that this is an administrative issue and it should not be interfered with. He said that government will accept any observations by House members on this issue.

On the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli talks in Washington, al-Majali said that this is an economic issue and has no political aspects but an attempt to explore the region's economic and political conditions. The prime minister's explanations on this point were not sufficient.

The House members then directed their questions at the prime minister. Twenty members spoke, focusing on both internal and external policies. The Islamic Action Front members noted that the prime minister was appointing his relatives and in-laws to special posts. The prime minister categorically denied this charge and challenged them to show him a single instance of this kind.

Member Bassam Haddadin questioned the government's lack of neutrality on Yemen and noted that there were signs of a separate solution between Jordan and Israel.

Al-Majali answered by saying that the position toward Yemen is neutral and the government is neutral. He also said that it is impossible for Jordan to accept a separate solution with Israel.

Al-'Anani Discusses Peres' Comment on Dead Sea

JN0706170294 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In its meeting today, the Council of Ministers reviewed a number of agenda issues. Our correspondent for political affairs met with Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, who spoke about the council decisions.

[Begin recording] [Al-'Anani] The first issue discussed was preparations for the expected visit to Jordan by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, who will head a delegation on a visit to Amman early next week to attend the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee. The Council of Ministers also discussed preparations for this expected visit since His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad asked the two governments to enhance bilateral relations to be in line with the agreement between the leaders of both countries. The Council of Ministers made preparations for political, economic, and financial files in order to develop relations with the brothers in Syria.

The second subject discussed by the Council of Ministers was a reconsideration of the local government and administration in Jordan. As a first step within the framework of a comprehensive reorganization system, it was agreed to promote four districts into governorates. These are 'Ajlun, Jarash, Ma'daba, and al-'Aqabah. This decision will be followed by other future decisions in order to complete this system.

[Correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab] What are your views on [Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on] Peres' statements on the fixed borders in the Dead Sea area, and the meetings of the tripartite committee in Washington?

[Al-'Anani] Actually, the Israeli foreign minister's statement deals with the instability of the surface of the Dead Sea, which makes it difficult, in his view, to define or demarcate borders in that area. On the one hand, his statement may contain a positive sign that he accepts the concept or principle of demarcation of borders, and this is something we understand positively. As for placing technical obstacles for border demarcation, we believe this is something that should be left for technicians to assess. I think that there are technicians in Jordan who are fully aware of these issues, and know the reason for low and changing water levels in the Dead Sea, which is the Israeli excessive pumping from the sources of the River Jordan.

[Dhiyab] But why this statement at this very time, the beginning of the committee meetings?

[Al-'Anani] I don't know the exact reasons that he has said this, but we can now decide our position on his statement. We do not accept such statements as a reason for delaying the issue or for not adhering to the Jordanian rights to specify our clear share in the Dead Sea. [end recording]

Notes Israeli Overuse of River Water

JN0706200594 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 7 Jun 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Jordan said current talks in Washington would place adequate emphasis on regaining its rightful share of water and securing recognized borders with Israel.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said Jordan's water rights were embedded in international and regional agreements, and that it insisted on enforcing such agreements. He also blamed Israel for excessive water siphoning from the River Jordan and its tributaries.

Speaking to "News at Ten" reporter Maha al-Sha'ir, Dr. al-'Anani said it was important to settle the issue of how to divide water among the region's riparian states. The minister also stressed the need for reaching agreement on recognized and secure borders, and that technical problems should not stand in the way of the demarcation process. He said the current cease-fire line with Israel is not a good recipe for peace.

[Begin recording] [Al-'Anani] What is more important is that each country should live within recognized and secure boundaries. The current cease-fire lines do not constitute a recipe for permanent peace. Therefore, our insistence on demarcation boundaries is because we want to create also the atmosphere which would be conducive for permanent peace in the area.

[Al-Sha'ir] You referred to reports from Israelis that it is very difficult to put lines or border demarcations for that area of the Dead Sea for instance.

[Al-'Anani] Well, I think the foreign minister of Israel was specifically referring to the technical problems which might be encountered in trying to delineate boundaries in the Dead Sea itself. He might be referring, either to certain geological factors in that area or he was specifically referring to the fact that the surface of the Dead Sea was continuously shifting and moving because of over water siphoning that is taking place in the area, and we think that Israel is very much to blame for overdrawing from the River Jordan and its tributaries, which eventually thrown to the Dead Sea. And, therefore, while we acknowledge that there might be difficulty, but this does not construe any clear reason for not engaging in the demarcation process itself. [end recording]

Discusses Border, Water Issues

JN0706100094

[Editorial report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 1840 GMT on 6 June carried the 60-minute weekly program "Topical Issues" moderated by Jarir Maraqah. The program, which this week deals with the Middle East peace process and Jordan's stand vis-a-vis this process, hosts Jordanian Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani and journalist Salamah Ni'mat.

The program moderator begins by reviewing the peace process in light of the statements made by King Husayn after chairing the cabinet session on 4 June. Analyzing the new developments in the peace process, al-'Anani reviews the peace talks on the Arab-Israeli tracks saying that the peace process is continuous and changeable. He then says: "The Jordanian position basically derives its strength from a united Arab position on the external level and from its domestic impregnability on the internal front. We have our own circumstances, our own geography, and our own demography which are known by all. Therefore, those who fabricate rumors against Jordan or those who attempt to shake the Jordanian negotiating stand are in fact encroaching on Jordan's dignity in terms of demography and geography." He adds that Jordan intervened in light of the developments in the peace process "to guarantee Jordan's borders and geography." He says: "Therefore, border demarcation has become, for Jordan, a process that would avert the basic threat coming from Israel or from its attempts to tamper with this matter. Also, we should safeguard the demographic structure in Jordan. His majesty the king has always stressed that we are one people who have equal rights and duties."

Journalist Salamah Ni'mat speaks about weak Arab coordination and deviation of the peace process from the Madrid framework, saying that the PLO is interested in reaching an agreement that serves its strategic interests which might be different from Jordan's. He says that Jordan cannot wait until settlements are reached between Israel and the other Arab sides.

Turning to the agenda signed by Jordan and Israel, al-'Anani reviews the formation of the tripartite economic committee which will meet in Washington on 6 June, adding that "unofficial talks" will cover the issues of water and borders. He adds that Israel claimed that the Jordanian side delayed the talks because it insisted on not discussing the other issues, such as economic issues, before settling the issues of border and water, saying that these are basic Jordanian rights that must be addressed. He says that Jordan has always tried to convince the United States that Jordan does not want to obstruct the peace process, but wants to achieve specific things. He says: "If the Israeli side shows enough flexibility in Washington—something which we will know soon—and there is a need to form committees to discuss the border and water issues on the ground it will be useless to waste the opportunity by not forming technical committees here on the ground—that is, in the region."

Asked if Jordan will resume talks on the Jordanian-Israeli track in Washington within the resumption of all talks or will agree on a new mechanism for implementation, al-'Anani says: "It is unfair to address this question to Jordan alone. The Madrid equation does not concern Jordan alone; it concerns all Arab tracks. If the Arab countries continue with the current method of negotiations, would Jordan return to Washington alone?"

Asked if Jordan is ready to host the meetings of Jordanian-Israeli committees, al-'Anani says: "If this comes within the framework of returning Jordanian territory and water, the answer is yes. A team should be present on this side and the other side. They should meet at the geographical site which should be defined, not in any other place."

Journalist Ni'mat then speaks about the Arab-Israeli normalization process and requirements of the peace process. He says that the majority of people does not attach great importance if talks with the Israelis are moved to Jordan. The information minister says that Jordan is prepared technically to hold direct talks on the issue of borders here on the ground.

The information minister then touches on future Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the importance of concentrating on priorities. He says that Jordan seeks to establish relations based on common interests. Ni'mat then reviews Palestinian-Israeli agreements and their impact on Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

Al-'Anani then speaks about the importance of stability and security to achieve and maintain peace.

Al-'Anani Interviewed on Changes in Media

NC0406173094 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 May 94 p 8

[Interview with Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani by Ashraf Khalil in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Khalil] I sense from your words that the Jordanian media have meager resources and that they fail to interpret reality. What are the problems?

[Al-'Anani] I believe that what is happening in the Jordanian media—particularly television—is a reflection of what happened to the economy in the wake of the Gulf crisis; namely, the closure of the markets, the occasional challenge posed by the laws, and the major changes within Jordanian society itself. I do not want to use the expression "we are at a crossroads," because it has lost its meaning due to overuse. The truth is that our country is going through a process of change that is clear in all its forms. What you hear about the imbalance in the media sector, official or otherwise, represents the state that precedes transformation.

[Khalil] Is there a state of confusion?

[Al-'Anani] Maybe. Anyway, I am not concerned about that. I believe that it is natural to be frank and clear in

discussing this matter, so that everybody can feel that what is happening is not a normal situation but a temporary stage that precedes stability after the society shifts from one administrative approach to another and from a certain type of relation between the ruler and ruled to another.

[Khalil] How do you think we can meet these challenges?

[Al-'Anani] A major discussion has started and should be enhanced about the role of the media in a changing society. How should it be? How can we reconcile the homeland's priorities and the need for creativity? How can we free creativity from bureaucracy? All these questions should be raised at the present stage, where democracy is the main feature of change. It is the stage of freedom of creativity and expression. How can we harmonize the heritage of the past, when expression was restricted, with future ambitions to set expression free and help it reflect conditions in the homeland? I do not think that we can work out magical, practical, and ready-made solutions "in a nutshell" for all these matters.

[Khalil] To what extent do the Jordanian media reflect the democratic experience in the country?

[Al-'Anani] I admit that the media are not reflecting it as they should. The media should take the lead in that context, which they do not do at present.

[Khalil] Are parties and national powers allowed to appear on Jordanian television? What are the criteria governing your decision to allow this or not?

[Al-'Anani] That has not happened until now. Party leaders have not appeared on television. But there are plans to show the different parties and intellectual trends on television soon.

[Khalil] Speaking about the parties, you know that colleagues in partisan papers are not members in the Press Association. What is your position on this? And what is your role as information minister in wrestling more gains and rights for the men of the media?

[Al-'Anani] We are all going through a process of change that includes not only official institutions, but also private ones. Some of the features of dictatorship exist, even in private organizations, and not only in public ones. Party papers for example do not publish the views of those who oppose them. We have to enhance the democratic experience among all. As for the membership of the Press Association, I believe that the law must be enforced. In other words, a journalist must decide where he stands; he should be a member of the association. Being a member of a specific paper is not proper.

[Khalil] So you support the stand of colleagues in party newspapers?

[Al-'Anani] Yes. This is a wrong situation that should be rectified. That is why you find non-governmental institutions doing something and accusing the government of doing it, just as you accuse me now.

[Khalil] In light of reports that some journalists are being pursued by the security forces and others are being brought to trial, and noting that the Journalists Association is in a weak position, what are you doing to protect the men of the press?

[Al-'Anani] I differ with you, sir. Those journalists violated the publication law. In the past, newspapers would be closed and journalists would be pursued for such an offense. Now, however, we use civilized methods: We refer violators to the court, which is an independent and a just legal authority. If the court rules for the journalist, he goes free, and if it rules against him, he is punished like any other violator of the law. Let me tell you again—so that you can realize the magnitude of the change—that in the past, the journalist who violated the publication law was deprived of practicing his profession, and his newspaper was closed.

[Khalil] But I am talking about some articles in the existing law, articles that do not suit the democratic practice.

[Al-'Anani] Where are these articles? I do not think this is true.

[Khalil] For example, Publication Law No. 10 of 1993 violates the journalist's right not to reveal to court the sources of his information. Also, Law No. 50 of 1971, on protecting the state's secrets and documents, denies journalists access to information and punishes them if they obtain any document described as top secret, confidential, or classified. The punishment for revealing any such document is at least 10 years temporary imprisonment with hard labor.

[Al-'Anani] Do you know of any country in the world without secrets that must keep out of publication? What would happen if these secrets were published? There are things that are harmful to national security, and the courts must be the judge there.

[Khalil] Are you saying that media men are not aware of what harms national security?

[Al-'Anani] I am not accusing anyone. But are there not secret documents in the biggest world democracies? Britain, for instance, keeps its documents secret and publishes them only after the passage of 30 years.

[Khalil] Who decides that certain information must remain secret?

[Al-'Anani] The people in charge, the people in government, and those concerned with the protection of the country's security and stability.

[Khalil] Are the government agreement with the IMF and the ordinary trials unpublishable information?

[Al-'Anani] Why not?

[Khalil] What is the role of the Jordanian media in clearing the Arab air, knowing that the leadership in Jordan is calling for healing the Arab rift and renouncing Arab differences?

[Al-'Anani] I do not think the Jordanian media are giving the subject of Arab reconciliation the importance it deserves. The Jordanian media are busy and preoccupied with domestic affairs.

[Khalil] Isn't this negligence?

[Al-'Anani] By whom?

[Khalil] By all the Jordanian media.

[Al-'Anani] If I say yes, you will rush to accuse me of interfering in the affairs of the private press and media. Forget about that. But as a media observer, I tell you that we must engage in a dialogue to define a general strategy to highlight the interests of the Arab nation and Jordan in its heart.

[Khalil] Allow me to change the topic of discussion to the area of peace. What is your and the Jordanian Government's stand on the project of a Middle Eastern market or network?

[Al-'Anani] I do not support this project. I also believe that Israel does not support such a project. But our analysts are behaving as though Israel is doing its utmost to establish such a market and as though the whole thing will take place and we will sit down to discuss and make efforts over something that Israel does not want in the first place.

[Khalil] But Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres expressed this view in his book *A New Middle East.*

[Al-'Anani] What Peres is saying is not new. There is a difference between the American and Israeli viewpoints regarding this point. However, is there an Israeli decision to establish a market extending from Iran to Morocco and including Israel as a part of it? I do not think so, but they might start marketing this big concept to you. They will start by gradually introducing such an idea on a small scale to include the triangle: Israel, Jordan, and Palestine. This is a region they can operate with.

[Khalil] Do you support such an idea?

[Al-'Anani] Of course I do not.

[Khalil] Why?

[Al-'Anani] I believe that Jordan and Palestine are not yet ready to compete with Israel. Second, I do not believe that Israel will approach this project in a balanced and reciprocal manner. In other words, it will keep its restrictions on imports, trade, and economy, but will want the Arab countries, mainly Jordan, to function within this reality. We reject this totally because Jordan is a sovereign and independent state. However, the problem lies in Jordanian-Palestinian relations in light of Israel's control over the economy of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the rest of the occupied territories. Israel is trying to exploit this situation to involve Jordan. We have to be aware of this and confront it because Israel wants to take without paying anything in return.

[Khalil] Since you are on the front line with the enemy, what are your plans to confront the Israeli media?

[Al-'Anani] First, we need to talk about the peace process with a scientific and mature approach. We need to be frank with the people about this subject. We should not allow wild imagination to control the ideas of people regarding the topic of peace.

[Khalil] What do you mean by imagination?

[Al-'Anani] There are some fantastic and exaggerated theories evaluating Israel's size and fearing the results of the peace process. These are based on the false notion that whoever goes to negotiate capitulates to Israel's demands. This does not apply in the case of the Jordanian negotiators at all. The evidence is that more than two and a half years have gone by in the negotiating process, and we on the Jordanian track have not progressed a single step forward.

Syria Warns Against Bilateral Water Talks With Israel

JN0706170894 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 7 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Informed sources have said that the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, which opened in Washington yesterday as part of the meetings of the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli tripartite committee, are addressing bilateral and regional economic cooperation.

The sources added that the issues that will be raised in this context include ways of combating insects that cause losses to farmers in the Ghawr region, making use of the power linkage networks in the region, as well as banking and trade issues.

The talks are also expected to address the impact of the PLO-Israeli Paris economic accord on the economic agreement between Jordan and the Palestinian side and its possible impact on the memorandum of understanding between Jordan and Israel on economic affairs.

Political observers noted that the talks come in the wake of a series of contacts and meetings conducted last month between Jordanian and Israeli officials in several European capitals, including London.

Sources have asserted that a senior Israeli official met officials in the Jordanian Government and discussed with them economic issues, as well as the border and

water issues. The Israeli side said it was willing to hold border negotiations on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338.

Informed sources also said Syria has warned Jordan against holding bilateral negotiations with Israel on the water question, since it is a vital issue that concerns Syria as well.

Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, the deputy prime minister, visited Damascus recently and held direct talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Columnist Views PLO 'Apprehension' on Economic Ties

JN0506120794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Jun 94 p 22

["Highlights" column by Fahd al-Fanik: "Unsigned Agreement"]

[Text] The trade and currency link with the West Bank is of great concern to Jordan. It is currently the most important economic issue because what is agreed today will govern this relationship for many years to come. However, Jordan continues to refrain from entering the real battle.

The interest in the Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement is exaggerated. This agreement has not been signed because the Palestinian leadership does not consider it a priority, being busy pursuing more important things. It must be said that points in the draft agreement which the Palestinian leadership said needed more study are of no concern to anyone and can be deleted, and therefore, the delay in signing the agreement is intentional.

We say that the Jordanian interest in the economic agreement with the PLO is exaggerated because even if it takes place, it will be no more than a moral obligation, nonbinding and inapplicable except in as much as Israel allows. The autonomy government is not empowered to negotiate with Jordan and reach agreements with it because it has no foreign policy powers and no sovereignty to reach agreements with states. Thus, the agreement is no more than an agreement of intentions with the PLO in Tunis and not with the autonomous government.

Some Jordanian officials have reservations about the Paris Israeli-Palestinian economic agreement on the pretext that it does not give Jordan the economic advantages it had expected and were promised in the 7 January 1994 economic agreement with the PLO because the Palestinian side could not obtain more advantages for Jordan due to Israel's intransigence.

However, the question is: Why does Jordan expect the Palestinian side, which is weak and has no sovereignty, to obtain for it rights and economic advantages in the West Bank and Gaza? Why doesn't Jordan seek these rights and advantages within the joint Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. economic committee? When will the Jordanian officials stop evading confrontation and blaming the Palestinian side for accepting an agreement that gives priority to Israel's interests at Jordan's expense?

It is no secret that Mr. Yasir 'Arafat does not want strong economic relations with Jordan because he wants an independent state and is apprehensive of real or imaginary Jordanian domination. Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah Abu-Shukr, member of the negotiating Palestinian delegation, said that the delegation did not receive any instructions from the PLO leadership during the first five rounds of talks and that the delegation did not return to Tunis at all during these rounds, contrary to what used to take place during negotiations with Jordan when facsimile messages were exchanged with Tunis every half hour because Tunis had apprehensions with respect to Jordan that did not exist toward Israel.

Accord With Lloyds on Iraqi Sanctions Expected Soon

JN0706093294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Jun 94 pp 1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The government and the Lloyds Register are continuing negotiations and a deal could be concluded before the end of the month to have the London-based agency set up a presence at the port of al-'Aqabah to observe the enforcement of sanctions against Iraq, informed sources said Monday.

In the meantime, offshore interceptions and inspections of all al-'Aqabah-bound ships continue at the Tiran Straits in the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba; but no diversion of vessels were ordered by the American-led warships enforcing the sanctions in the last one month, officials said.

A negotiatng team from the Lloyds Register visited Jordan two weeks ago for talks with Jordanian officials on the land-based sanctions verifications regime and reached agreements on most basic points, but several "minor points remain floating" in the air, one source told the Jordan Times.

"There are no major points of conflict and we expect major progress by next week," said the source. Another source said Lloyds Register officials were drafting the necessary agreements and these could be ready by next week.

"Both sides have agreed on most of the key points and a few issues, which are very minor in nature, remain to be sorted out," said the source without elaboration.

Under the agreed formula, Lloyds surveyors will be included in a committee made up of port and customs officials and a representative of the concerned clearing agent which will monitor all Jordanian imports and

exports through the port as part of the customs procedures dictated by Jordanian law.

The Lloyds representatives could freely observe whether the goods tally with the concerned documents accompanying them and send reports to the U.N. Sanctions Committee. Beyond that, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said, Jordan will not accept any "inspection" of Jordanian imports and exports since the Kingdom is not under any sacntions and is free to import whatever it wants.

All cargo addressed to consignees in Iraq will be inspected separately for adherence to the sanctions and those consignments will be allowed to leave the port only after approval by the Sanctions Committee wherever necessary.

Food and medicine are exempt from the sanctions and therefore do not need sanctions approval. Other items related to the production and distribution of food and medicine are also allowed, but they should have prior Sanctions Committee approval.

It is expected that the Lloyds presence at al-'Aqabah will cost nearly $3 million for the first year. Importers will pay the cost on the basis of the tonnage of their imports and the amount will be remitted to a special account, which in turn will be linked with an as-yet undesignated escrow account at the U.N. at the disposal of the secretary-general.

The sources noted that such an arrangement will have clear transparency of the amount that Jordanian importers pay and allow the importers to apply for compensation of equal amount from the U.N.

Diplomatic sources said the United States, the most hardline advocate of the sanctions against Iraq, had agreed to most of the points. No details were immediately available of disagreements if any.

Washington accepted the proposal to replace the sea-based inspection of al-'Aqabah-bound vessels by U.S. warships with a land-based verification system in April. The acceptance came after Jordan made its return to peace talks with Israel conditional on an end to the inspections, which cost the Kingdom more than $1 billion since the sanctions against Iraq were imposed in August 1990.

Importers and shipping agents have welcomed the Lloyds arrangements saying it would not only ease their financial burdens and logistical problems but will also encourage shipping lines to resume their regular services to al-'Aqabah.

Prime Minister Al-Hariri on Economic, Peace Talks

BR0306141394 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 3 Jun 94 p 11-12

[Interview with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by Gaby Nasr; place and date not given]

[Text] [Nasr] How can a high-flying international businessman such as you have the determination, or even the patience to head the government of a country that is "ungovernable" to say the least?

[Al-Hariri] Let us just say it is difficult to govern. As you know, Lebanon is a country that just emerged from a long war. I agreed to become its prime minister because I knew that I could make a difference. Today, one and a half years after taking office, I can consider that the government achieved many of its goals and that as such, it has already made a difference as compared with those that came before.

[Nasr] So you consider that your action brought positive results, overall?

[Al-Hariri] Indeed. Very positive results, and this is a statement based on fact. First there was the stabilization of the Lebanese pound's exchange rate. Only a few years ago, the national currency's standing with respect to foreign currencies was a prime concern for the Lebanese. Regularly, and in every single news bulletin, there were special items monitoring real time variations in the local exchange rate.

Today, the Lebanese pound is stable and therefore is not an issue any more. This is already very important inasmuch as a stable foreign exchange market is the very foundation of the economy. Without it, there cannot be a successful reconstruction plan.

[Nasr] The economy may have pulled out of the hole, but recovery is still some way off!

[Al-Hariri] I never said you could rebuild an economy all at once and just wave away war's every disaster. However, results achieved so far are very promising. When I came into office, the reserves of the Bank of Lebanon were an estimated $450 million. Today, they exceed $1.5 billion. Not to mention our balance of payments which shows a surplus. This is what gives Lebanon its almost unique character worldwide, and will let it become a large economic hub once again.

[Nasr] But all this does not seem to have had any immediate impact on daily life. I think in particular of the unavoidable threesome: electricity, water, and telephone, not to mention the awful roads.

[Al-Hariri] I am perfectly aware of people's impatience. But these are tasks that require very careful planning. We do have a plan, and this plan is being carried out according to a specific schedule. Every sector is concerned, including services, Beirut's international airport, which was in an unbelievable mess; we just finished straightening it up, and electricity, which, unfortunately cannot be supplied on a 24-hour-a-day basis for at least another 17 months.

Any such enterprise takes time. You need to plan, call in experts, establish preliminary requirements, issue invitations to tender, negotiate prices... These are stages you cannot bypass, especially in a country like Lebanon, where each official has his own prerogatives. Bids from the various companies interested in the rehabilitation of the telephone network alone weigh in at 500 kg... Now this is what I call working!

[Nasr] Are not the connections between yourself and the reconstruction project for downtown Beirut a little too close for comfort? Is not this project a kind of "insurance" that would guarantee that you remain "indispensable?"

[Al-Hariri] Let me tell you right away that in a democracy, no one is indispensable. Institutions remain, and officials are hired or fired as part of this very specific framework. I would remind you, however, that my group became involved in downtown reconstruction well before I was appointed prime minister. Furthermore, I consider the government duty-bound to take an interest in this. No state could remain passive when the core of its capital is in ruins, it could not remain aloof and unconcerned just to avoid being charged with doing business.

[Nasr] Your very business-like style of government does not go down well in traditional political circles.

[Al-Hariri] Well, I would say that this is democracy. I became prime minister by being a member of Parliament. My political opponents are trying to do the same. This is the name of the game. Not only in Lebanon, but in all countries ruled through democratic institutions.

[Nasr] A major factor preventing Lebanese capital from flowing back and international investors from regaining confidence is indisputably the huge influence of Syria. Have you made a deal [last word in English] with the Syrians to retain some maneuvering space?

[Al-Hariri] Let me tell you one thing in all sincerity: I can assure you that since I became prime minister, the Syrians have not contacted me once on any issue directly connected with internal affairs. Before I took office, like everybody else, I was hearing that you could not appoint a civil servant or set up a project without Damascus' imprimatur. I am not in a position to comment on the way my predecessors did things, but as far as I am concerned, there is no truth to all this.

In fact, our relationship with the Syrians is based on two unchanging features: cooperation in internal security matters—and I think all the Lebanese can see it is effective—and coordinated foreign policies.

[Nasr] You happen to be a naturalized Saudi citizen, a privilege seldom granted an Arab national by the

Wahabite ruling family. As the Lebanese prime minister, do you ever find yourself caught between Damascus and Riyadh's conflicting interests?

[Al-Hariri] Contrary to popular misconceptions, Lebanon can never find itself in an unpleasant situation with respect to Syria and Saudi Arabia, for a simple reason: Its relations with these two countries are very different in nature. Geographically, Syria could not be closer to Lebanon. We have common interests that cannot be dissociated. The two countries' populations are very close, and there are many obvious family ties. Moreover, many Lebanese people own land in Syria, while others work there. This is nothing new; ties between our two nations go back a long way.

Such is not the case for Saudi Arabia, which has no special interest in Lebanon. Riyadh has a very clear foreign policy which is limited to its sphere of influence. On the other hand, the Saudis help friendly countries, including Lebanon. Insisting that there is a power struggle between Damascus and Riyadh in Lebanon is ludicrous. I would even add that to my knowledge Saudi Arabia has never attempted to exert any influence on our country.

[Nasr] You visited France several times, meeting its top officials, not to mention businessmen, of course. Were tangible promises made with respect to funding specific reconstruction projects?

[Al-Hariri] Relations between France and Lebanon date back hundreds of years. The French have a special relationship with Lebanon, and so do the Lebanese with France. When a Lebanese says he is going to Europe, chances are he will end up in France. The reverse is just as true. When a Frenchman comes to the Middle East, you just know he will stop over in Beirut. There is indeed a very special relationship.

As far as tangible promises are concerned, on meeting French officials our requests were very specific. For the most part, these related to new equipment for internal security forces, the provision of spare parts for military equipment, and the construction in northern Lebanon of a 450-megawatt power plant. Furthermore, we reached an agreement in principle for increasing the capital of Middle East Airline.

[Nasr] Is there currently a will to renegotiate the agreement entered into by Paris and Beirut as regards General Michel 'Awn?

[Al-Hariri] To tell you the truth, I fail to see how that could be. You know that the agreement was concluded before I came into office. To my knowledge, none of the parties which developed it has shown any desire to have it renegotiated so far.

[Nasr] In the Washington bilateral talks, the Lebanese and Israelis still cannot seem to agree on anything. Jerusalem and the PLO entered into an agreement last September, while Jordan seems to be headed in the right direction. If this goes on, all Arab countries will end up signing a peace treaty with Israel, with the exception of Lebanon and Syria, which will be left alone in seeking an "overall solution." Is not Beirut mostly waiting for Damascus' "green light" before it forges ahead?

[Al-Hariri] Now listen carefully, I will say this only once: there can be no peace settlement in the Middle East that excludes Lebanon. This is no empty slogan; it is a fact. Even if all our Arab neighbors enter into a peace agreement with Israel, such an agreement will no be viable without our participation. The reason for this is obvious: All opponents to the agreement will converge here and will not sit still until they have wrecked it.

Beside, there is no reason for Lebanon to rush at a time when the Syrians themselves do not oppose the notion of a peace agreement with Israel. Why should we be in a hurry while Damascus has formally entered the process and has been overtly negotiating with the Israelis?

All that we ask for at this stage is full enforcement of Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for the withdrawal of Israel's army from the border zone it has been occupying in southern Lebanon. The Israelis will not hear of it and want us to rush into a peace treaty. However, there is nothing in Resolution 425 that requires Lebanon to conclude a peace agreement.

Buwayz: Quitting Negotiations Would Isolate Country

NC0706173494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpts] The Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Affairs Committee, meeting today under the chairmanship of Amin al-Hafiz with the participation of 18 deputies and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, discussed the theft of Lebanese water resources and Lebanon's complaints to the UN Security Council over recent Israeli assaults. [passage omitted]

Minister Buwayz pointed out that Israel uses its military forces to carry out assaults to make the resistance feel that it is dependent on the protection of the Lebanese and Syrian Armies. Consequently, it will seek to attain self-reliance by acquiring more weapons, and this will result in confrontation between the Army and the resistance.

The deputies then debated the issue, and Minister Buwayz explained that the Israeli assaults have a larger purpose than just influencing the negotiations. He said Lebanon's participation in the peace negotiations was approved by several successive Lebanese governments and was also an inter-Arab and regional decision. He explained that if Lebanon abandons the negotiations, it will find itself isolated. Buwayz noted that Israel might be seeking to make Lebanon withdraw from the negotiations.

Concerning the complaints that Lebanon has lodged with the UN Security Council, Buwayz pointed out that a negative atmosphere prevails in that body. He said: The Americans asked us to lodge only a complaint. We are not deceived by UN advice. U.S. views on this issue must be altered. No one understands our issues, and Middle East issues in general, like we do.

Cabinet Affirms Right To Confront Israeli 'Aggression'

NC0806062694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] The cabinet met yesterday and affirmed Lebanon's right to confront every aggression committed by the Israeli occupation forces.

After hearing Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's report on the recent Israeli attacks and the measures taken by the government and legitimate authorities to confront these attacks, the cabinet said that the aim of the Israeli aggressions is to split the internal ranks and harm the homeland's unity.

The cabinet, which met under al-Hariri at the government house, appraised the national solidarity shown against these attacks. It heard a report from Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz on the Foreign Ministry's contacts with the major powers and the Security Council members to hold a session and adopt a resolution condemning Israel.

Information Minister Michel Samahah stressed after the session that Lebanon is calling on the United Nations to apply international law. He said:

[Begin Samahah recording] The Lebanese Government's stand is very clear. According to international law, the victim and the aggressor cannot be put on the same level. Hence, we call on the United Nations, as the cabinet clearly said in its statement today, to apply its legitimacy, international law, and the UN Security Council resolutions to deter Israel from committing its aggressions, and to condemn its occupation of Lebanese territories in the south and western al-Biqa' and its repeated attacks—as we saw recently, such as the piracies and kidnappings and the attacks on the territories lands and especially on Lebanese citizens in Lebanon's heartland. [end recording]

On Israel's theft of Lebanese waters, Minister Samahah said: It is no secret that Israel has coveted Lebanese waters since its establishment. Lebanon's Foreign Ministry has raised this issue in all the arguments over this question. The foreign minister sent a message to the UN secretary general earlier this week asking him to send an experts committee to inspect the al-Litani River waters in the south.

Asked whether Prime Minister al-Hariri briefed the cabinet on his meeting with U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley, Minister Samahah said: The meeting was held as part of the Lebanese efforts and contacts held by the president, the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the Foreign Ministry departments to hold a Security Council session and to adopt a stand that condemns Israel's repeated attacks on Lebanon, especially the latest one. We have nothing to add with regard to the U.S. stand or to that of others.

Hizballah Asked Not To React to Israeli Actions

NC0706193194 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Report by Jad al-Akhawi in Jba', southern Lebanon]

[Excerpts] Here in the town of Jba' in Iqlim al-Tuffah the inhabitants are cautious. From time to time they hear the sounds of bombs or Israeli reconnaissance planes, which usually precede air raids. This is when they rush to their shelters and safe rooms. [passage omitted]

It has been learned that Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah have held a telephone conversation in which the need for containing the situation and depriving Israel of any pretexts to perpetrate new acts of aggression was stressed. It was also learned that similar contacts were held between Syrian officials and the Hizballah leadership.

But according to fundamentalist sources, the resistance will continue its operations and a response to the raid near Ba'labakk last week must be expected. The sources said the visit to Lebanon by Iranian envoy Kazem Khonsari and his meetings with Lebanese officials and with resistance leaders came as support for the resistance, not to ask it to calm the situation and refrain from reacting, as Lebanese papers reported today.

Hizballah's Nasrallah on Peace Talks, Future Role

NC0406160694 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 May 94 p 5

[Interview with Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah by Dr. Rif'at Sayyid Ahmad in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [Ahmad] Hizballah's name has been associated with martyrdom. How would you describe Hizballah's experiment in the past decade through its resistance operations in the south and its association with the notion of martyrdom?

[Nasrallah] From the start, Hizballah was established as a jihad movement, and it operated on this basis. Certainly the conditions prevailing at the time of its establishment were very hard and tough. The Israeli occupation forces were occupying much of the Lebanese territories and were allied with some of the right- wing parties. Multinational troops were present in Beirut. The Palestinian forces, which had been confronting the

Israeli enemy, were defeated. Later, the PLO left Lebanon and many slogans were abandoned. The only choice left at the time was confrontation; confrontation of the hegemony, domination, occupation, arrogance, and Israel's legendary aura and of the state of frustration, despair, defeat, and capitulation that prevailed in Lebanon. A strong shock had to be administered to awaken the Lebanese people from their slumber and point to the major elements of power inherent in them. We were in need of a new method to restore confidence to the people and at the same time convince them that the enemy can be defeated. There were several accumulated complexes; superiority, weakness, and humiliation complexes and the feeling that the other party is stronger and undefeatable. In those days, I remember the arguments between the young strugglers and those who called themselves realists, who thought that our movement was unrealistic and illogical; in other words, a movement of crazy people!! Today, all of them say that the only realists and logical people at the time were us. The most prominent aspect of Hizballah movement is the jihad aspect. After three years, the movement managed to prove its credibility. So it is not a coincidence to see the current massive popular rallying around us. During those three years, we managed by means of martyrdom operations to force the Israeli troops to withdraw from al-Biqa' and Beirut and to keep them confined to the currently occupied border zone. The Israelis withdrew unconditionally and without any security arrangements. This is because the casualties they sustained generated popular pressure inside the Zionist entity that led to the withdrawal of the Israelis, after the withdrawal of the U.S. and British troops, who knew that they simply could not stay longer without suffering casualties. Thus, we believe that our jihad experiment has been successful. We also managed to identify many sources of strength in our people. We managed to stimulate our people. Proof of this is that the resistance enjoys popular, official, and partisan support throughout the country. Undoubtedly, the resistance operations and martyrs in Lebanon have had a major influence in stimulating the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and the leaders of the Palestinian intifadah admit this. These operations proved that the Israeli is weaker than we believe and is not what we imagine him to be. The Koran testifies to their cowardice. They are too weak to get involved in face-to-face confrontations. We believe that this jihad movement, which is still continuing, could develop further and could be generalized, and this is what we are looking forward to. We want to see this resistance in all the cordon states around the Zionist enemy.

[Ahmad] With the liberation of all the Lebanese soil, will the suicidal performance of the Islamic movement in the south be affected or will it continue in various forms until Palestine and Jerusalem are liberated?

[Nasrallah] In fact this question has been the focus of interest in many circles. One thing is clear in all cases. When the Israeli enemy withdraws from the Lebanese territories, the resistance will stop at that level. As for the rest of the question and the types of action, this is premature; the matter will be subject to developments and the situations that might arise. As far as principles are concerned, we believe that Palestine is an occupied land, that Israel is a usurper entity, and that the Palestinians are primarily responsible for liberating this land. They are entitled to support from all Arab and Muslim nations until all the land is liberated. As for how and through which methods, this will be determined in time.

[Ahmad] This takes us to negotiations, the so-called settlement, and the fantasies of the Middle East market. We want to hear your views in this matter in general.

[Nasrallah] Hizballah has declared its clear and determined stand since the invitation to the Madrid conference. We refused to take part. In other words, we reject negotiations with the Israeli enemy. We believe that the American and Israeli enemies want to seize this opportunity to force their plans on the entire region. We are going through a stage that lacks international and regional balance, after Desert Storm and the frustration and despair it created. Therefore, they are trying to force the formula or the settlement that suit their interests. The American and Israeli enemies are serious about a peaceful settlement according to their own terms at this particular time, where conditions are favorable. They know very well that the future involves many risks and they have to cope with that future. But can these negotiations achieve results or not?

As far as the Palestinian track is concerned, the situation is clear. I believe that it is possible to agree on signing the details of the Declaration of Principles, because 'Arafat is prepared to sign anything. When he took that course, he did not do so in order to go back to armed struggle later. He took it to finish it to the end whatever the price. The concessions he made are unimaginable. Even those who mistrusted 'Arafat to the maximum did not expect that many concessions. Through their intifadah, the Palestinian people expressed their rejection of the Palestinian- Israeli Declaration of Principles.

As for the Jordanian track, matters are almost settled; they are waiting for the other tracks. The major obstacle lies in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. The Israelis want to reach some solution with Syria or Lebanon. But President al-Asad's personality and his determination to hold on to the established principles he declared—when the Israelis cannot make real concessions—lead me to believe that it is not possible to achieve any result on that track. This is at the official level. But our own vision is that negotiations—regardless of their results—will not be able to force on the region the formula, the shape, or the substance Israel and America are pursuing. We are strongly convinced of that and are very optimistic about the future. We believe that the people of the region will not tolerate coexistence with this imposed formula.

At any rate, the Egyptian people have become an example that conciliation with Zionists concerns the regimes; there will never be a conciliation as far as the

people are concerned. This is the actual reality after all these years since the Camp David Accord was signed. The Egyptian people have not accepted normalization or coexistence with the Zionist enemy. This is what makes us optimistic. We say that any result reached will be limited to the regimes, which will not be able to protect that result or force it on the people.

[Ahmad] What is your opinion about some Islamist religious leaders who have recognized, advocated, and legalized the idea of recognizing the Zionist entity? There are some Islamic edicts in this regard which appeared in some of our Islamic countries (no names mentioned). What is your opinion about this matter (the recognition)?

[Nasrallah] Historically speaking, there are scholars who are known as the court scholars. The scholars under the various governments that ruled the Islamic countries in the past were divided into three categories: One group adopted the people's cause, rejecting the ruler's oppression, tyranny, and injustice. The second group supported the ruler, and were called the court scholars. This group was also called by Imam Khomeyni the sultan's preachers. The third group was impartial and regarded what happened as of no concern to it. It is also known that the court scholars issued Muslim religious edicts contrary to Islamic principles which require that any such edict be rooted in the Koran, the Prophet's tradition, or evidence adopted in Islamic jurisprudence. History books relate such actions. Such scholars cannot deceive anyone. They may at one point mislead the simple people. But they are eventually exposed. We currently witness such scholars, and we will continue to see such types of scholars who are alien to the Islamic awakening.

[Ahmad] Let us move on to the Lebanese issue. I have recently noticed some changes in Lebanese society. I want to ask: Do you see in this the start of Lebanon's revitalization or the start of new problems and fresh internal conflicts?

[Nasrallah] A series of events have recently taken place, some of them devoid of wisdom. Lebanon is almost at the threshold of the unknown. For example, the present government has adopted several security, media, and political measures. These measures have interacted. Some conditions have been exploited to push through plans that had been prepared before. This is a serious action. The Lebanese understand this easily. This government has been working since its establishment to change the nature of things in Lebanon. This government cannot claim to have established domestic peace. Domestic peace was accomplished before, thanks to the direct Syrian effort and the agreement of the Lebanese people to support and embrace the process of domestic peace. The present government was established against the background of domestic peace and a bad economic situation. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri had something to do with the bad economic situation through what is called the dollar game, the banks, and so forth. This government came to change the conditions in a way not so familiar to the Lebanese. The prime minister tried in various ways to dominate all the media—the press, radios, and television stations—by buying some of them and exerting pressure on the rest. The government adopted measures on other levels, such as banning trade union demonstrations. There was also an attempt to control the banks. We, as a movement for resisting the occupation, believe that any security measure to control the groups cooperating with Israel and its tools is perfectly sound. But we are against the exploitation of security measures to push through plans pertaining to the media, trade union freedoms, and public freedoms in general in order to transform Lebanon into an emirate or shaykhdom.

[Ahmad] This takes us to the parliamentary experience and your assessment of it. Some Islamic movements in other countries reject the idea of the parliamentary experience for several reasons, including reasons that have to do with jurisprudence. What is your assessment of this experience in terms of jurisprudence, as well as actually and politically in Lebanon, particularly after Hizballah's entry into the parliament and its becoming the biggest partisan power in the parliament?

[Nasrallah] Islamic movements all over the Islamic world must agree in their goals and principles. But they do not necessarily agree in their approach. Every country has its unique situation and conditions. For example, the Islamic movement in Iran—which led to the revolution and the overthrow of the shah's regime—did not adopt the military approach. It adopted the popular approach, using strikes, demonstrations, and clashes of a popular nature in the street, away from the military and security approach. The situation was different in Lebanon's case. Under occupation, it is not possible to stage demonstrations that inflict harm on the people more than they harm the occupiers. Therefore, conditions are unique to each country. It follows that Islamists should not be rigid in their methods, tactics, and approaches. We have to select the legitimate approaches instead of insisting on one rigid approach.

We now come to the parliamentary experience. When we entered the parliamentary battle, we had a set of objectives and goals. We said that participation in the parliament would not change the system. This was unprecedented frankness with the Lebanese people. Among the goals of participation in the parliament was that of solidifying our jihad and political existence. The West and arrogant powers tried to picture Islamists in Lebanon as security organizations, armed gangsters, and terrorist groups that have no intellectual, cultural, or organizational presence. They sometimes said that these Islamists were a bunch of Iranians who came to Lebanon. We sought elections as a means of demonstrating our volume, presence, and scope. Many were surprised to find that Hizballah enjoyed all that popularity.

On the other hand, we wanted to have a voice in the parliament to call for resistance. Our priorities in Lebanon are different from other Islamic movements elsewhere. Some Islamic movements give priority to overthrowing the regime and establishing an Islamic state. Accordingly, they move in that direction. We believe that our top and dominant priority is to fight Israel, expel the Israeli occupier, and arouse the nation to establish a major popular, Islamic resistance that restores Jerusalem and rids the nation of that cancerous growth. Hence, we are primarily concerned with enhancing efforts in the direction of that priority at all the political and legal levels. This requires being within an institution that is capable of providing some kind of support to the resistance movement. Therefore, we endeavored to support the resistance after entering the parliament. In that context, we developed other objectives, like defending the victims of injustice from within the parliament and providing better conditions for our people through submitting bills and discussing government plans and budget.

From the viewpoint of Islamic jurisprudence, our participation in the parliament was given deep thought by a group of jurisconsults. It was not only a political decision. A distinction may be drawn between participation in the parliament and participation in an executive authority. The parliament is a legislative, not an executive power. It allows some sort of political influence on the course of things in Lebanon.

In the parliament, I can say my mind, oppose, and discuss. I can oppose the laws I do not like. I exercise my freedom, and I do not have to accept just anything presented to me. In the parliament, we discuss and oppose. At the end of the day, we may not support this program or that, and then we will not be partners to the consequences. In the parliament, I can say, for example, that I reject the demolition of these houses, and then I spare myself the blame. I also can confront these things in the parliament. No one can impose on me anything I do not believe in; I express my opinion in full freedom.

On the other hand, when I become part of the government, that is, part of the executive power, I cannot do that because the minister, at the end of the day, is committed to the policies of the government. The deputy is not committed to the policies of the parliament. This means that when the Islamists enter the parliament, they are religiously not blamed for any negative consequences.

Yes, things may sometimes and in certain cases reach a point where participation in the parliament may strengthen or cover up a serious situation or one that strategically conflicts with the objectives and inclinations of the Islamic trend. In this case, the deputies may resign and totally exempt themselves from the responsibility. But this always needs a study from the religious point of view.

[Ahmad] Do you see Hizballah playing a role in future Lebanese and Arab affairs? What shape and size will this take?

[Nasrallah] Generally, we are optimistic about the future of the Islamic movement in Lebanon and the region. I even tell the Western ambassadors who visit us that the Islamic movement and the Islamic awakening in our Islamic world are no longer an option, but a fate they must recognize. Hizballah is part of this bigger Islamic movement, affecting it and being affected by it. There is something like a unified destiny and a unified future. On the Lebanese level, we are not worried. On the contrary, the movement is growing and developing every day, and the line adopted by Hizballah—a jihad and political line—is logical and convincing. you will certainly find people in Lebanon who disagree with us or reject our thought and inclinations, but even these people respect our jihad and sacrifices. This is taken for granted. When Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi was martyred—and he was the first secretary general or leader of a party or movement to be martyred by the Israelis in Lebanon—all Lebanon was shrouded in sadness. We are a resistance movement whose leaders, not only ordinary fighters, are killed and martyred by the sinful Israeli aggression. Contrary to the image that foreign media are portraying, we in Lebanon talk about resistance and liberation of the land, practice resistance sincerely, and are concerned about civil peace. Many people thought that when the government in Lebanon tried to strengthen civil peace in the country, it would clash with Hizballah. They thought Hizballah would reject the moves to cancel armed appearance or abolish some military barracks, or that it would not accept certain measures. But they were mistaken.

In past years, some press analysts used to say a major battle between the Lebanese state and Hizballah would break out once the first asked the latter to do this or that. These analysts were surprised to find that we operate with a different mentality. We believe that civil peace in Lebanon is in the interest of our people. It is not the authority that matters; it is the people. We oppose the authority, but we care about our society and our people because we know that going back to the civil war in Lebanon would serve Israel's, not the resistance's, interests; the interests of the enemies of Lebanon, not the people of Lebanon. We are open to all sects, trends, and movements present in Lebanon with which we may differ in religion, creed, or political ideology. I may even claim that we as an Islamic movement are more open to our surroundings and to the currents, parties, and personalities operating around us than any other movement. Day after day, our roots go deeper in the Lebanese ground. I can even add that one can find Hizballah's movement in the minds of children. It is no longer a movement that belongs to one generation, but several generations. Thus, the movement cannot be uprooted by striking at its key symbols, figures, or one of its generations. To uproot this movement is to strike at several generations, and I do not believe anybody could do so to

uproot a movement of such magnitude. Hizballah is no longer a transitory or unusual movement. It is a genuine part of this society; one that goes into the people's homes, neighborhoods, cities, and hearts. It is a deep-rooted movement that goes deeper and grows more day after day. Thus, as far as Lebanon is concerned I do not believe we have a problem. I personally am optimistic about the future of the Islamic movement, and that of Hizballah precisely, in Lebanon. Hizballah's role, and I am not trying to brag about myself here because Hizballah's decision is a collective decision and Hizballah is not led by a single individual, is a thorough and realistic one that takes into consideration all circumstances and developments and can face the challenges.

As far as the region is concerned, of course Hizballah has reached the point of providing a special moral influence. Through the contacts we make abroad we realize that to the Muslims in the world Hizballah has represented the nation's symbol of confrontation against Israel in the past 10 years. Unlike their regimes, the Muslim peoples are siding with this confrontation. The party that has reflected the ambitions, aspirations, and convictions of these peoples in the past 10 years is Hizballah. Now we have partners, and we are happy about this partnership. The Islamic movement in Palestine has surfaced and become a major and important symbol in the heart of the nation. The fact is that when we see an Islamic movement, whether in Palestine or elsewhere, that has adopted the jihad course and made considerable progress in it we do not feel sad, even if we were to become in the second or third place. On the contrary; we actually would see this as a fulfillment of the goals we set out to achieve. This is because we are not partisans. We have an organization and formations, but we do not operate with a partisan mentality. We believe that our movement is not serving the goals of a party but of a whole nation. Thus, we extend the hand of help and solidarity to any faction in this nation, even if we differed or if it were not Islamic. We will cooperate with any national or pan-Arab faction with a creed different from our Islamic creed or that differs from our political line in some details but at the same time is ready to confront Israel and the U.S.-Israeli plans of hegemony in the same way we would cooperate with any Islamic movement. This is because we are aware of this priority and we are sincere to this nation.

Accordingly, and as part of the optimism of the Islamic movement throughout the region, I am optimistic about the future of Hizballah. In any case, we believe in the Koranic promise. All expectations, prophecies, analyses, and facts indicate that our Islamic world, whether the major powers and the ruling regimes in our countries like it or not, is the future for the Islamic movement. I and many others from our generation may not be alive then, but undoubtedly the future will be for this movement and its various and successive generations that will take charge of our Islamic world's affairs. The Islamic future in this region is no longer a choice, but a destiny and a predetermined heavenly will, and nobody, God willing, will be able to change this.

Officials Cited on Israeli Raid, Presidents' Meeting

PM0706153094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Excerpts] Beirut, Damascus, Washington, AL-HAYAH—U.S. officials have shown some satisfaction with Lebanese developments particularly after the main parties concerned assured President Clinton's administration that they wished to avoid military escalation after the Israeli blows to Hizballah and the latter's retaliation. Officials have not ruled out the possibility of a lightning tour of the region, especially Syria and Israel, by Secretary of State Warren Christopher after the NATO meetings in Istanbul next week. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Ambassador Dr. Riyad Tabbarah met last Friday with Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs and his deputy Dan Kirtzer [as published]. It has been learned from informed sources that the U.S. side told the Lebanese side that "New York is not the right place" to discuss the escalation of violence and "the Israeli war" against Hizballah, an indication that Washington was not prepared to support Beirut's complaint against Israel at the Security Council. It repeated that the appropriate place was "the negotiating table." [passage omitted]

Sources have described the contacts between Ambassador Tabbarah and Pelletreau and Kirtzer as being "a frank dialogue" particularly in connection with the negative U.S. position on Hizballah, portraying it as a threat not only to Israel but also to Lebanon, and as a tool in Iran's hand. [passage omitted]

Yesterday Damascus denied the existence of an agreement with Israel providing for the cessation of national and Islamic resistance operations against the Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon or that "it made a deal behind the backs of the Lebanese."

Informed Syrian sources have told AL-HAYAH that "Syria has not agreed with the Israelis to stop the firing of Katyushas on northern Israel, and denied the existence of any deal under which the resistance would only fire Katyushas on the occupied strip." They emphasized that Syria "has made no agreements behind the back of the Islamic resistance or the Lebanese Government, and it cannot possibly become the protector of Israeli security," but they pointed out that "the resistance does not shell Galilee unless the Israelis attack civilians, as happened last July."

In Beirut, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi held consultations with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the political dimensions of the Israeli aggression launched by the Israeli Air Force last Thursday on a Hizballah base in the area of 'Ayn Kawkab in the Ba'labakk hills. AL-HAYAH has learned that the unannounced contacts between the two presidents took place last Friday evening and included a general assessment of the situation in Lebanon and the region in the light of the frozen peace negotiations and the need for cooperation to

consolidate the internal situation in the face of Israeli aggression and not to allow its results to be used as a way of undermining national unity. The Lebanese-Syrian contacts occurred as Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was on an unscheduled visit to Damascus, prompted by the latest developments in Lebanon.

As regards reactions to the Israeli raid, the position taken by the state in embracing the resistance and declaring a day of general mourning for the victims of the aggression to stress internal solidarity and control of the situation and prevent any negative effects, was welcomed by most Islamic and Christian spiritual authorities, and Hizballah was also responsive to it.

AL-HAYAH has learned that Hizballah's leadership showed appreciation of the delicate situation and did not break the official and political consensus. In fact, it has been eager to reaffirm its willingness to draw a distinction between its position regarding the Israeli raid and response to all the efforts aimed at keeping the situation under control.

It is noteworthy that, from the first moment of the aggression targeting it, Hizballah's leadership acted responsibly and overlooked its tense relations with the government and its opposition to the government's policy, as though it was seeking a new truce on the grounds that the priorities at this stage dictated that it should not open old files because it felt that that would undermine efforts to close ranks in the face of Israeli threats in the absence of any international stand and, particularly, of any U.S. stand that would deter Israel. This was emphasized by Hizballah's deputies at the meeting of the executive and legislative committees of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council chaired by its chairman, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din.

The party's leadership has even responded to the efforts made by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri from his home in Musaylih-al-Nabatiyah, and it quickly tackled the problems which occurred between its fighters and some members of the Fijian UN contingent in the south, and also stopped firing Katyushas to spare the south further hot eruptions. [passage omitted]

Roundup of Military Activity in Southern Lebanon

Israeli Shelling, Flights

NC0706171894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpts] The Israeli occupation forces have continued their acts of aggression in the south. From 1100 to around 1500 today, Israeli artillery continuously shelled Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Zibqin, Majdal Zun, al-Mansurah, Buyut al-Sayyid, al-Hinniyah and the outskirts of al-Qulaylah. This was accompanied by heavy machine-gun bursts and continual overflights by Israeli warplanes.

A correspondent from the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY reported that the villages of the western sector are now experiencing a state of economic, educational, and social paralysis as a result of the repeated Israeli aggression.

Meanwhile, resistance groups carried out a strong attack against enemy forces near al-Ahmadiyah in Western al-Biqa'. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim stressed that the al-Ahmadiyah operation today is one in a series of attacks in the confrontation with the usurper Israeli enemy.

Syria, Hizballah Fire at Planes

NC0806074294 Paris AFP in English 0654 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Ba'lbakk, Lebanon, June 8 (AFP)—Syrian troops and Hizballah guerrillas fired anti-aircraft guns at Israeli warplanes but missed as the jets flew over positions of the Iranian-backed Hizballah in eastern Lebanon, police said.

Seven fighter bombers flew mock raids over the al-Biqa' valley villages of al-Nabi Shit and Janta, where Hizballah has training camps, police said. Janta is located eight kilometers (around five miles) from the border with Syria.

Israeli warplanes carried out reconnaissance flights over the al-Biqa' overnight Monday, less than a week after killing 32 guerrillas in a devastating raid on a Hizballah training camp in the region.

Israel mounted the raid less than two weeks after its commandos snatched Moslem fundamentalist guerrilla chief al-Mustafa Dirani from his home in the al-Biqa' valley to obtain information on missing Israeli airman Ron Arad.

After the air strike, guerrillas fired katyusha rockets on northern Israeli prompting the Jewish state to mass troops on its border with Lebanon and to threaten a land operation unless the rocketing stopped.

Lebanon protested to the United Nations, branding the abduction and the raid acts of piracy that violated its sovereignty and called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council.

But US opposition defeated a draft council resolution on Monday condemning the Israeli raid.

Tension has gripped south Lebanon and dozens of families fled north fearing an Israeli operation as Beirut, Damascus and Tehran discussed ways of preventing any action which could give Israel pretext to retaliate.

Hizballah, which spearheads anti-Israeli operations in south Lebanon, has vowed to avenge the blood of its "martyrs" and said the fight with Israel was open on all fronts.

On Tuesday guerrillas fired 14 katyusha rockets into Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon,

causing neither casualties nor damage. Ten rockets fell on the outskirts of Marj 'Uyun, headquarters of the Israeli army and its proxy South Lebanon Army, in south Lebanon. Hizballah did not claim responsibility for the rocketing but said its guerrillas had fired around 30 mortar shells at an SLA [South Lebanon Army] outpost on the edge of the zone.

'Resistance' Operation in Sujud

NC0806082894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY office in al-Nabatiyah has reported that the Israeli occupation forces shelled al-Jabal al- Akhdar, al-Jabal al-Rafi', and al-Luwayzah in Iqlim al-Tuffah at 1030 today while Israeli warplanes flew over the al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas.

The resistance retaliated against the Israeli aggressions today by attacking the Sujud position with rockets and machine guns.

Katyusha Rockets Land in 'Security Zone'

TA0806111494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Four katyusha rockets landed today in the security zone in the Sujud region. There were no casualties and no damage. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery retaliated by shelling terrorist bases in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region. Intermittent exchanges of fire are now under way.

Christopher's Potential Regional Visit Reported

JN0806062894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Paris—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said Syria seriously wants to push forward the peace talks. In an interview he gave in Paris to the U.S. CBS Network, Christopher noted that he will soon tour some Middle Eastern states, but he declined to set any date.

Yesterday, the U.S. State Department hinted that Christopher may tour some Middle Eastern states after attending a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Istanbul next Thursday and Friday.

Defense Minister Receives Russian Chief of Staff

JN0706174894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received at his office today Army General Mikhail Kolesnikov, the Russian chief of staff, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, and Assistant Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan and Hasan Turkmani.

Discussion revolved around the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Armed Forces in Syria and the Russian Federation and means of improving them in a manner that will serve the interests of the two friendly countries. [passage omitted]

PRC Vice Foreign Minister Makes Statement, Departs

JN0606150294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] PRC Vice Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei and his delegation left Damascus this morning at the end of a four-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Assistant foreign minister Raslan 'Allush, a number of ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Chinese ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff.

Tian Zengpei made a statement to the correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, in which he described his visit to Damascus as successful and one which contributed to bolstering bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation.

He said: During the visit, we had the honor to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad. We were also received by the foreign minister, and held a round of talks with the assistant to the foreign minister.

He added: We discussed several issues, bilateral relations, and international topics of mutual concern. The two countries' viewpoints on these issues were identical or close.

Tian Zengpei expressed satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations during the 40 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries and their efforts to further them.

The Chinese minister called for implementing UN resolutions on the Middle East crisis, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, realizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and restoring all occupied Arab territories. He said: We appreciate Syria and its efforts to restore its occupied territories through peaceful means. We also greatly value the progress and achievements witnessed by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, in the field of building the state, economic development, and boosting the people's standard of living.

He added: The international situation is witnessing a quick change, and Syria and China believe that there is a need for bilateral consultation. He also said: During my visit to Damascus, I conveyed a message, wishes, and greetings of President Jiang Zemin to President Hafiz al-Asad. I am also carrying a reply message from President al-Asad to President Jiang Zemin.

He said: In the message, the Chinese leadership expressed its readiness and desire to develop bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation. President al-Asad also expressed similar feelings and desire.

Concluding his statement, Tian Zengpei expressed thanks for the warm reception accorded to him, and wished Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, more achievements, progress, and prosperity.

Prime Minister, Indian Minister Discuss Trade

JN0506141794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] At 1100 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Kamaluddin Ahmed, India's minister of state for trade [title as heard], and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd- al-Rahim al-Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs, and the Indian ambassador in Damascus. Mr. Ahmed conveyed greetings from Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to Mahmud al-Zu'bi, who asked the Indian minister to convey his greetings to the prime minister. Discussion during the meeting revolved around trade cooperation between the two friendly countries and means of improving it.

This morning, Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, also received the Indian minister of state for trade and his delegation. Discussion revolved around means of improving, strengthening, and

diversifying trade links between Syria and India and other issues listed on the agenda of the Syrian-Indian joint committee.

Al-Asad, Indian Minister Discuss Ties

JN0706141594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] At 1215 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Kamaluddin Ahmed, India's minister of state for trade, and his delegation. Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs, and the Indian ambassador in Damascus attended.

The Indian minister conveyed to the president a message from Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and greetings from Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma. The president asked the Indian minister to convey greetings to the Indian president and prime minister and to the Indian people.

Discussion during the meeting revolved around bilateral ties and the means to improve them. Discussions also touched on issues related to the situation in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and the Nonaligned Movement.

Indian Minister Departs

JN0806093394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Minutes of the 3d session of the Syrian-Indian joint committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation were signed at the State Planning Commission today. The minutes were signed for Syria by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs, and for India by Kamaluddin Ahmed, India's minister of state for trade.

The cooperation covers trade exchange through all possible means, including equitable deals, as well as economic cooperation in the fields of agriculture, industry, electricity, transportation, technological cooperation, training of technical cadres in the fields of electric energy, railways, education, health, in addition to cooperation between scientific research centers in both countries.

The Indian minister of state for trade and his delegation left Damascus this evening following a six-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. During the visit, he chaired the Indian side to the meetings of the 3d session of the Syrian-Indian joint committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation.

The Indian minister was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs, the assistant minister, and the Indian ambassador in Damascus and Embassy staff.

In a pre-departure statement to a SANA correspondent, the Indian minister praised the good results of the visit, describing it as positive and useful. He also commended the growing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in various fields, asserting the need to deepen and enhance them.

He further stressed India's positions that support Arab causes, pointing to Syria's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. He asserted that peace cannot be achieved in the region except by Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, in line with the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

The Indian minister concluded by thanking the Syrian people and government for the warm reception and hospitality he and his delegation have been accorded. He also noted his admiration of the comprehensive progress made by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in all fields of development, wishing Syria further progress and prosperity.

India

Russia's Yarov Meets With Rao, Signs Agreement

BK0806055294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Russia has reiterated its stand that the Kashmir issue should be settled between India and Pakistan bilaterally on the basis of the Simla Agreement and without any outside interference. The visiting deputy prime minister of Russia, Mr. Yuriy F. Yarov, said this during his talks with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi yesterday. Mr. Rao appreciated Moscow's support to New Delhi on important political issues. He said he looks forward to his visit to Moscow and expressed the hope that a new chapter will be opened in India-Russian relations.

India and Russia have decided to set up five working groups to boost bilateral cooperation. The groups will be within the framework of India-Russian intergovernmental commission on trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation. An agreement on this by the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, and the visiting Russian deputy prime minister, Mr. Yuriy F. Yarov, in New Delhi. The preliminary meeting of the commission will be held in Moscow in September this year.

Confirms Continued Supply of Defense Spares

BK0706150294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Russia today expressed the hope that the forthcoming visit of the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to Moscow will give a boost to economic and political relations between the two countries.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, the deputy prime minister of Russia, Mr. Yuriy Yarov, said several agreements—including investment guarantee pact and cooperation in science and technology—will be signed during the visit. Responding to questions, he said Moscow gives priority to ensure uninterrupted supply of defense spares. On cryogenic engine technology, the Russian leader said experts from both the countries have reached an understanding for the supply of engines.

External Affairs Minister Ill, Leaves for London

BK0806112894 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 6 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] New Delhi—Union Minister for External Affairs Dinesh Singh will be out of action for the month as he is leaving or Monday for treatment in London.

Singh, who took over as External Affairs Minister a year-and-a-half ago, has kept indifferent health almost throughout the period.

Though Singh could not be contacted, his colleagues told INDIAN EXPRESS that the minister was leaving for London on Monday morning. He was likely to be away for a month, they said.

Through sheer coincidence, the top bureaucrat in the ministry is also not expected to be in Delhi for some days. Foreign Secretary K Srinivasan is also in a London Hospital; he flew there after catching malaria during his Bulgaria trip with President Shankar Dayal Sharma.

With an ailing cabinet minister at the top, much of the work is split among his two deputies, Ministers of State R L Bhatia and Salman Khurshid.

Bhatia has just returned from the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Foreign Minister's Conference at Cairo, and Khurshid left on Sunday for a week-long trip to Kazakhstan, Kyrghizistan and Tajikstan.

With illness taking him to London, Dinesh Singh will be missing from the scene just when he might be needed at home. The Foreign Office should now be working at consolidating the gains of Rao's US visit, and another important summit is scheduled later this month when Rao flies to Moscow to meet President Boris Yeltsin.

Like always, Dinesh Singh's illness triggers off bouts of speculation about replacing him with a fitter man. The rumour mill has begun churning again; and Human Resource Development Minister Arjun Singh is now being mentioned as the man who might take over the ministry.

Two Britons Kidnapped in Kashmir; Hindu Leader Killed

BK0706154494 Hong Kong AFP in English 1531 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] New Delhi, June 7 (AFP)—Suspected Muslim rebels kidnapped two British hikers in the northern state of Kashmir Tuesday as the Army patrolled a southern town after the murder of a Hindu leader, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said. Pushtu-language speaking rebels abducted 16-year-old Kim Housego and David Mackie, 36, at Aroo near the resort town of Pahalgam, the news agency quoted officials as saying in the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar.

No group has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, the first of British nationals in Kashmir since 1989, when the Muslim separatist drive became violent.

A Foreign Office report from London said Housego's parents were also kidnapped but released later to transmit the demand of the rebels seeking the release of three comrades being held by Indian authorities. Housego's father David, formerly a New Delhi-based correspondent of the FINANCIAL TIMES, reported the abduction to police, officials said.

Meanwhile, Army soldiers patrolled the curfew-bound town of Bhaderwah in the southern district of Doda to

prevent violence following the gunning down of Hindu leader Rocher Kumar of the Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party, BJP). Kumar was shot dead by unidentified militants in his house early Tuesday. His killers fled but the murder sparked clashes and arson attacks in which at least 10 houses were torched, officials said.

A curfew was clamped in Bhaderwah and the nearby town of Kishtwar, both of which are described as "communally sensitive."

Officials said 11 more people died overnight Monday in gunbattles linked to the Muslim rebel campaign for secession from India. India and neighbouring Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over the disputed state.

'Manhunt' Launched To Rescue Hikers

BK0806033794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] In Jammu Kashmir, militants kidnapped two British tourists, demanding the release of three foreign mercenaries belonging to the Harkatul Ansar outfit. The incident took place near Pahalgam yesterday. One of the kidnapped is the son of a journalist formerly based in Delhi. The security forces have launched a manhunt to secure their release. Militants also looted two foreigners of their belongings and cash at gunpoint at Aroo near Pahalgam.

In another incident, four persons, including two militants have been killed in the valley. The security forces nabbed eight militants and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition during search operations. Meanwhile, the indefinite curfew imposed in Bhaderwah and Kishtwar towns of Doda District is continuing. The curfew was imposed in Bhaderwah town yesterday morning following the killing of a BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader by militants and the death of another person in violent incidents. In Kishtwar, the curfew was clamped as a precautionary measure. Security forces are patrolling vulnerable areas of both the towns.

Iran

President Discusses Foreign, Domestic Issues

LD0706124894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] During a news conference this morning, the president of Iran answered questions raised by correspondents from 50 countries on domestic issues, the country's economy, Iran's foreign relations, and other issues. Our correspondent sent in the following report:

During this news conference the president, noting that at present all the country's resources are being employed for reconstruction, stressed that the Islamic revolution's values are being maintained and strengthened daily. He added: We raise our thoughts in connection with the Islamic revolution, those who are interested accept it, but this does not mean interference in the affairs of others.

Referring to the country's hard currency problems and the state's economic readjustment policies, he said: The new policies announced are a continuation of the same policy which aims to keep a single parity exchange rate for foreign currency. We plan to clarify the true rate of foreign exchange in line with supply and demand. I think that in future the currency exchange rate will be fixed at a level below the present market rate.

Referring to the country's 8 percent economic growth rate, the president added: The economic readjustment policies are going ahead well, and at present our markets are saturated with domestic products.

In reply to a question asked by a Lebanese corespondent on relations between the president and the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution ['Ali Khamene'i], the president said: I have shared the same trench with the leader of the Islamic revolution for the past 40 years, and I regard his eminence as the most pious individual to be the country's leader. According to the president's remarks, some sort of jealousy by the foreign media is observed in this connection.

A Japanese correspondent asked a question on the possible amendment of the Constitution when President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's second four-year term ends. The president replied: We are more interested in implementing the Constitution. If I performed my duties well during the last eight years, there will be no need to seek reelection.

About the satellite receivers and the government's plans, the president referred to the Majles investigation and refused to make further comments in order to deflect any prejudgement.

In reply to a question raised by the Voice and Vision correspondent on future relations between Iran and Britain in the wake of exposure of espionage at the Iranian Embassy in London, the president drew the correspondent's attention to the negative consequences of this action of Britain. He added: This evil deed by the British has created an atmosphere of insecurity and mistrust in relations which will have negative consequences. We do not wish to see the existence of such an atmosphere among countries. Nevertheless, the president stressed: I do not see any need to take the initiative to sever ties with Britain.

Regarding other foreign policy issues, the president referred to Egypt as an Islamic country, and efforts are under way to resume relations. He said the war in Tajikistan is against the interests of its people and the government. He described Azerbaijan as the victim in the Karabakh conflict.

In response to another correspondent's question, he referred to the fact that at the moment all the resources of the country are being used for reconstruction. Commenting on the export of the Islamic revolution the president said: We announce our ideology to the world. Anyone who wishes will accept it. This does not mean interference in the affairs of others.

While condemning Iraqi violations and the record of the Ba'thist Party toward Iran, the Iraqi people, and Kuwait, the president criticized the measures taken by the Saudi Arabian Government toward Iraq, and Saudia Arabia's lack of coordination with other countries of the region.

In response to a question from the correspondent of the Chinese news agency on the presence of the American editors in Iran and the effect on relations between the two countries, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Their presence will have no effect on Iranian-U.S. relations. However, it can clarify some facts for the American people.

In response to a question from the AFP correspondent on the normalization of relations with the United States, the president said: We have not cut our commercial ties, but we give priority to countries other than the United States. Regarding political relations, we really do not trust the United States. It has repeatedly announced its readiness to hold talks, but as we do not see any good intentions there, we do not believe it is right to begin talks. The releasing of our assets, properties, and frozen funds in America could be a way of proving their good intentions [hosn-e niyyat].

In response to a question from the correspondent of THE GUARDIAN from England about whether Iran regards the British Government as an obstacle to the establishment of an Islamic government in Bosnia, the president said: There are certain indications that the British Government has not cooperated in repulsing the Serbian aggression. However, we will leave our final judgement to the future.

Concerning Iran's position toward the developments in Yemen, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: We believe in the unity of the two Yemens and we are against its dissolution. However, if the people of that country adopt a different policy we will have no particular views.

Concerning the fictitious [vahi] claim of sovereignty over the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf by the United Arab Emirates [UAE], he said: The UAE Government has no acceptable claims which it can raise in international organizations. If anyone wishes to lay hands [dastrasi] on these islands he should pass through a sea of blood.

Concerning privatization in the national economy and the attraction of foreign investment, the president said: Privatization is a policy which started in the First Five-Year Development Plan and which will continue to the end of the Second Plan. We will continue our work in this field on a gradual basis in accordance with the Constitution.

About attracting foreign capital to the country, he said: From a legal point of view, there is no prohibition against attracting foreign capital. In accordance with the law, we will give a positive response to the request of all those who are willing to invest in Iran.

Regarding the money which is owed to the Islamic Republic of Iran by a number of foreign countries, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The funds owed to us are not such that they could be written off against our debts. For instance, we are owed money by Germany for building a nuclear reactor in Bushehr, but the courts should pass judgement on this. Or, for instance, America also owes us a great deal of money which it must repay.

Concerning the successes achieved during the First Five-Year Plan, the president said: All the details of the plan and the policy of economic readjustment have produced positive results. If the price of some items rose this was due to economic improvement [as heard].

The president added: During the First Five-Year Plan many projects were implemented. Their implementation would not have been possible without the policy of economic readjustment. Now industrial companies have been formed in every part of the country and they are active. The president added: Supporting the deprived and the oppressed will not necessitate a reduction in the country's economic growth. In the First Five-Year Plan we took some measures which have paved the way for greater attention to be paid to the deprived areas. Now we also have a number of projects for providing social welfare which will be submitted to the Majles in the near future. He added: On the basis of this plan those whose income is below the acceptable [ma'qul] level will be covered by social security. We hope that this issue will be completely solved by the end of the Second Plan.

Concerning the press, the president said: Our expectation from the press is that they deal more deeply with existing problems. They should help to clarify the issues. They should understand the general policies of the system and should act within that framework. The president listed sloganeering and populism [awamzadegi] as the defects of the press in our country.

Khamene'i Assails U.S. Claim to World Leadership

LD0706122794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Addressing a large and very enthusiastic gathering this morning of the people of Kokiluyeh va Buyer, Ahmad Province, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: [passage omitted] God is not happy with the tribal disputes in this province; and I, as your brother, am not

happy with this situation either. Such unacceptable customs should be abandoned.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i criticized and rejected tyranny against women and girls in some regions of this province and said: Islam hates and detests any man who subjects his wife or daughter to cruelty. The Prophet of God condemns any man who relies on his physical ability to oppress a woman. The ugly and un-Islamic tradition practiced in some regions of the province, where girls are forced to marry against their will, must also end, because God's blessings are conditional and will only come to those who observe Islamic ethics and divine instructions.

Referring to the all-embracing propaganda and political efforts of the enemies of Islam and the intensification of the economic sanctions against the country, the leader of the Islamic revolution said: The enemy is trying to make the Iranian people despondent, to turn their backs on Islam. The enemy intends to create division among the people and the officials and intends to weaken the spirit of work and endeavor among the people. Despite all the hostile efforts against Islam's sovereignty, the spirit of faith, enthusiasm, allegiance to the Islamic Republic, hope for the future, and determination to continue the path of the revolution and the imam is observed in every corner of Iran. [passage omitted].

The esteemed leader also described the claim of the United States to be the leader of the world's nations as a futile dream, a false hope. He said: Today it has become clear to the Americans, to their allies, and to their rivals in Europe and Asia—and even to affiliated weak states—that neither the United States nor any other power can lead other nations, because the nations will never again submit to oppression and imposed puppet leaders. The events in Palestine, in Africa, and in Europe demonstrate that Westerners—particularly Americans—cannot control the world. [passage omitted]

Castro Declines Invitation To Form Anti-U.S. Bloc

PM0706141694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jun 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Castro Turns Down Iranian Invitation To Form Axis To Confront United States"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed Iranian sources said yesterday that Cuban President Fidel Castro has "diplomatically" turned down an Iranian invitation to form a new axis "to confront what the invitation termed U.S. imperialism's domination of the world."

The sources added that Castro proposed selling sugar and tobacco to Iran at low prices in return for 500,000 barrels of oil a year.

The Iranian proposal was submitted to Cuba by Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh, who has just concluded his visit to Havana, where he met with Castro for 40 minutes. During the meeting he handed Castro a message from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The content of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message has not been revealed. sources in Tehran, however, pointed out that the message reflected the new policy drawn up by Iran aimed at creating a new bloc of what it termed "struggling states" under its own leadership. In addition to Cuba, the countries concerned include North Korea, Iraq, Libya, Yemen (Sanaa), Sudan, Jordan, and Qatar. The idea came first from extremist elements associated with 'Ali Khamene'i, guide of the Iranian republic, who believes that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policy of seeking to achieve accord with the West has produced no positive results.

The aim of forming this bloc, which—according to the extremist elements—seeks to extend its authority over the Nonaligned Movement, is to force the West in general and the United States in particular to reconsider its policy aimed at isolating Iran.

Support for the Pyongyang-Havana-Tehran axis comes from a group of black U.S. Muslims who set up offices in Tehran in 1980. This group owns one of the English dailies published in Tehran by the "KEYHAN companies group," stronghold of extremists in Iranian media services.

The idea of forming an axis with Tehran was not, however, taken seriously in the Cuban capital, where Castro has on numerous occasions criticized the backward cultural and social policy of the Iranian mullahs.

Castro also rejected Iranian claims that Tehran would fill the "gap" left after the breakup of the Soviet Union, describing this as arrogant.

It is noted that the Cuban president is currently seeking to initiate a dialogue with the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton to rescue Cuba from the economic deterioration and political chaos dominating it, according to analysts.

Kidnapped Engineers Worked on Nuclear Program

PM0706140094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Three Experts in Iranian Nuclear Program Abducted"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Gunmen have abducted a Chinese engineer and two of his Iranian companions in southeast Iran.

A statement issued by the Interior Ministry in Tehran yesterday pointed out that the Chinese citizen, whose identity is still unknown, was working on the uranium mining project in Rudan. The policy of developing uranium resources is considered part of Iran's nuclear

program; that is, with technological support from China and North Korea. It is believed that the three abducted people handle very sensitive information concerning Iran's nuclear program. It is not clear whether the abduction operation is political in nature or was carried out by a gang of robbers active in that area.

The abduction of foreign nationals over the past few months has become a big problem for the government in many parts of Iran. In January, a 22-year-old Australian tourist disappeared while en route to Shiraz, capital of the south. There has been no news of him since. In February and March, three North Korean technicians, said to have been working on military projects near the Gulf, were abducted. They still have not been released.

Last month, the body of a North Korean man was found near Ahvaz, capital of Khuzestan. It was said that someone lured him there and killed him for unknown reasons.

The government has advised foreign nationals not to leave major cities alone. Excursions organized for European tourists have been canceled or their routes altered to avoid the danger of being attacked by armed gunmen on the road.

The Iranian Interior Ministry's report shows an increase in all types of crimes, from small-scale riots to organized and large-scale armed robbery and murder. This coincides with the smuggling of thousands of weapons from Pakistan and Afghanistan to all parts of eastern and southern Iran. Sometimes convoys of smuggled goods and drugs travel for hundreds of miles inside Iranian areas, protected by armed groups and supported by personnel carries and tanks.

The number of foreign nationals working in Iran is estimated at about 18,000, compared with 1.2 million before the mullahs' revolution in 1979. But there are also 2.2 million Afghan refugees, 1.2 million Iraqi refugees, mostly Kurds and Shiites, and at least 1.2 million illegal immigrants from Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan.

Foreign Ministry Affirms Neutral Position on Yemen

LD0706115694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] A spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry rejected the claim that Tehran supports one side of the conflict in Yemen and is dispatching military assistance to that country. He stated: From the start of the conflict the Islamic Republic of Iran clearly expressed its regret over the outbreak of the war and expressed its concern about the possible separation of the Muslim brothers in Yemen. He added: By adopting a neutral stance Iran has announced its readiness to mediate.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed: Iran is in favor of Yemen's unity and resolving the existing disputes through peaceful means, bearing in mind the national interests of the people of Yemen.

Larijani on Saudi Policies, Need for Yemen Unity

NC0706113494 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 26 May 94 p 16

[Weekly political newsletter by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani: "The Saudi Government and Some Major Concerns"]

[Text] 1. So far as the national interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other nations in the Persian Gulf are concerned, nothing is more important than the prevailing situation in and around Saudi Arabia. We are interested in having powerful neighbors and good relations with others. On this basis we believe that there are noteworthy reasons to make us concerned about the future of the Saudi system at home as well as its foreign policies outside its borders.

2. Our major concern about the internal situation of the Saudi rule stems from the change in U.S. policy in the way it approaches the Islamic movement—or what they call Islamic fundamentalism. Over the past decade the opinion of Washington politicians was often that another type of Islam should be put before the Islam of Iran so that the Islamic movement in the Muslim countries could be weakened. They believed that in implementing such a strategy, the prestige of the Saudi rulers in the world of Islam could be counted on and capitalized. Therefore, many mosques sprung up in Egypt, Algeria, Africa, Europe, and Asia built with Saudi money. However, it was not long before all these mosques turned into propaganda centers for "Muslim fundamentalism." The Algerian experience is extremely interesting. Saudi Arabia extended great financial assistance to the Islamic Salvation Front, but apparently when the Muslim masses began to move, the Koran and the holy teachings of the Prophet become more attractive than remarks by friends like Mr. Belhaj and his sort. The conclusion that Washington has drawn is extremely important: It believes that artificial movements cannot withstand the current Islamic movement which is the Islam of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. They concluded that in order to harness the Islamic movement, the Egyptian or the Algerian models should be used; that is, dictators without religion should seize power and violently crush popular movements and base the system not only on secularism but also adopt an "anti-religion" ideology or doctrine. It is not necessary to point out how much this policy is in line with America's "democracy" slogan and how disgraceful it is. The issue for us is the practical impact that this policy now has. It is within this framework that America intends to carry out a fundamental change in the Saudi ruling machinery. During some of my recent exchanges of views with European statesmen, I realized that the

issue has gone beyond being only a strong viewpoint in the White House and has become a "European" issue as well.

3. The concerns that are felt should not only be a lack of trust in the future of the Saudi regime but also in the fact that over the past couple of years, Saudi rulers have played an active role in numerous tensions in the region. Looking at its differences with Qatar, with the United Arab Emirates, with Yemen in the form of border disputes and, finally, its provocation of the recent bloody and destructive conflicts inside Yemen, the most natural justification that can be given for these Saudi acts is that Saudi Arabia wants to inculcate on the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council that everyone should be under its control, or, in other words, that the said council is the "council of cooperation with Saudi Arabia!" Outside of their borders, they are afraid of the emergence of strong powers in the region. The unification of the two Yemens paved the way for the formation of a powerful country with a rich historical-cultural background, a vast territory, and a strategic position. It is precisely this that is creating problems for the Saudi rule! I think that some of Riyadh's "nervous actions" outside its borders may stem from its worries at home. But nobody in the Persian Gulf should believe that anything can be gained from fanning the flames of tension, from political instigations, and from territorial claims! Those who are weaker are more vulnerable. The stronger a rule, the more populous its territory, and the more experience it gains in the region, the more hopes for the future of the region it can give. I can never forget Sanaa's mistake in supporting Saddam's regime during the imposed war. But our nation and our government can and should focus their attention on the future and recall the heritage of cultural-historical-religious ties of Iran and Yemen instead of looking to the past. We should support Yemen's unity and oppose any type of separatist movement. Undoubtedly this does not stem from hostility toward our friends in Aden but from our profound affection for them. We consider the brothers in Aden to be citizens of Yemen and see their interests lie in the preservation of their country's unity. Our brothers should set aside the war and bloodshed and think of the future of Yemen as the strongest country in the south Persian Gulf. This is the future that awaits them; if only they knew.

Views Effects of Satellite Transmissions

NC0706152494 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 May 94 p 4

[Article by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Tehran Majles deputy and member of the Supreme National Security Council: "The Satellite, Industry, and Culture"]

[Excerpts] 1. Let us comprehend the matter correctly. The controversy is not whether the satellite or its dish antennae are good or bad, lawful or unlawful! The question is of a certain form of social behavior. [passage omitted]

2. Let us discuss the matter of social conduct. Can anyone deny the deleterious effects of satellite transmissions on the mental and moral growth of youth? [passage omitted]

3. Now we come to the most crucial question: What should be done in the face of serious moral threats resulting from the proliferation of the various foreign transmissions. First of all, we should be aware that all of us, not only the government, but all individuals have a responsibility. If we accept this, we can be assured that not only can we help to stem this scourge but also to achieve a high level of success. This is only possible if all of us consider ourselves responsible, rise up against it, and carry out our duties.

The people should gain enough knowledge and information on the subject. This is a momentous obligation for the scholars, intelligentsia, and farsighted individuals in our society that should be conveyed by our mass media: radio, television, the press, the Majles and so on so that the message is conveyed to the masses.

Orators and preachers should enlighten the people on the issue at every opportunity. The people should not consider this issue as simply sensitivity toward all modernism [preceding word in English]. [passage omitted]

4. Should the government interfere in this matter? There should not be the slightest doubt. This is because the government is not a mere gendarme in an Islamic system to prevent murder and theft. It also has the responsibility of combating base thinking to maintain the moral well-being of society.

It is precisely for this purpose that a guardian has two kinds of jurisdiction: The first is that which bestows power on him and the second is to guide the people. For the second, it is imperative that a guardian should be a pious and devout theological scholar so that he has the necessary ability to guide.

What can the government do in this matter? Initially, it can make the people more aware of the issue and at a secondary level it should formulate certain useful laws and then compile regulations for the implementation of those laws. Perhaps it may not be so difficult to draw up a guidance program with the help of the government. The doubt lies in whether the government is able or qualified for such conduct, that is, whether it can ban the use of programs carried by foreign satellites.

Regarding its legal authority, there is no ambiguity on this matter in the Constitution. Even in the democratic systems based on liberalism [preceding word in English], which on principle should be indifferent to values, the issue of safeguarding public decency is an exception. It is for this reason that in many of the American states there are restrictions on the establishment of gambling dens, brothels, and how much bodily exposure is permissible. Similarly, a man cannot have more than one wife at a time and vice versa. However, the implications of public

decency are unwritten in the West, but in our system they are very clear, sensible and in accordandance with the shari'ah.

Some people do not consider it proper that the government should impose a ban, even though there is no legal hindrance. Their main reasoning has two axes: The first is that banning the public from acquiring these programs will only increase their curiosity, and the second is that the government cannot impose laws on this matter, whether at the level of our current technology or when the acquisition of such programs becomes easier. It cannot go from house to house to supervise the implementation of its laws. [passage omitted]

5. What is the prospect for the future? One of the characteristics of our great contemporary revolution is that of operational information. Perhaps information in itself may not have progressed greatly, but it has maintained its swift and evolutionary course and it is the operational information that brought about revolutionary upheavals. [passage omitted]

6. To sum up: A. The future of communications is not in the proliferation of the use of the satellites by individuals. Instead, an important development will be the establishment of informational highways with ease, which will place a massive capability on informational traffic within reach of the home or workplace of individuals with the help of fiber optics. This information will not consist solely of television programs, but will also open up other vast horizons.

B. In the last few years of the 20th century, there is a suitable opportunity for the dear people of our country to be aware of these developments and to learn the correct and useful way of utilizing the current facilities. One should admit that the correct way of utilizing radio and television has not been spelled out to the people. One should not think that this consists merely of switching equipment on and off or knowing directions! If modern communications equipment is utilized with awareness (regarding information pollution), it can certainly be said that the usefulness of human life can be extended manifold.

This means that if today individuals can abandon their negligence in this field, their apparent lifespan of 60-70 years can become more useful than a mere existence of a few thousand years or more! In fact, age is a treasure that needs to be explored!

C. Just as it has been mentioned in the country's plan for economic and social development, the Communications Department should prepare itself to join the current modern trend of information. The social, cultural, and scientific departments of the country should prepare the people for optimum utilization and on how to remain safe from the harmful effects of satellite programs. A legal ban on the use of communications satellites, which is a temporary technology for individual use, will stress the cultural aspects of those programs that are permitted. Of course, the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran should transmit a selection of these programs some hours daily for the benefit of the public.

Official Condemns Israeli 'Terrorism' in Lebanon

LD0706190094 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Beirut, June 7, IRNA—Iran strongly condemns Israel's aggression on Lebanon particularly its recent air raid on Ba'labakk, a senior Iranian envoy told Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz here last night.

The envoy, Foreign Ministry director general for Mid East-North African affairs, Hojjat ol-Eslam Kazem Khonsari, said the Zionist regime's plots were not restricted to Lebanon alone but were aimed at all nations of the region. He said the Lebanese people have the right to defend themselves against the Zionist regime.

Khonsari denounced the abduction of Mustafa Dirani on May 21 by Zionist troops and said the silence of international circles against this latest act of state terrorism indicates their helplessness vis-a-vis the United States.

Dirani the leader of Lebanon's Momena (Faithful) movement, was kidnapped from his home in Ba'labaakk by a helicopter-borne team of Zionist commandos.

Meanwhile, Lebanese daily AL-NAHAR wrote in its Tuesday's edition that Khonsari's visit is aimed to bring calm to Lebanon and called it an effort to end the Zionists aggressions on Lebanon.

The daily said that in his meeting with Lebanese officials, the Iranian envoy underlined the need for coordination between the Lebanese Government and Islamic resistance at such a crucial juncture.

Commentary on GCC Statement on Disputed Islands

LD0706174194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The 51st rotational session of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, PGCC, foreign ministers concluded its work after two days of talks on international and regional issues Saturday June 5, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In a part of the statement, PGCC calls for Iran-UAE talks on the disputed islands.

Following the release of this statement, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry yesterday, Monday, June the 6th, said: Historical evidence shows that the islands have always belonged to Iran, and to resolve the differences the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes holding of talks with the UAE, without any pre-conditions.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has, however, left the door open for talks as put forth by the spokesman of the

Iranian Foreign Ministry yesterday. The spokesman said the invitation extended to the UAE's foreign affairs adviser is still valid.

The UAE, immediately after the Iran-Iraq war in 1988, without any hard evidence, claimed ownership over the Iranian islands of Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa. The claims have so far worked as a media propaganda by the regional states and those fueling tension and crisis in the Persian Gulf region.

The PGCC statement has also protested against the anti-Saudi propaganda on the Iranian media during the hajj season. In this connection Dr. Mohammadi [not further identified] said: The Iranian media enjoys full freedom—something which the neighbours should understand.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman rejected the claim that Iran has supported one of the sides in the Yemen conflict and has provided military assistance to that country, saying: From the outset of the conflict the Islamic Republic of Iran has clearly announced its stance expressing regret over the outbreak of clashes and concern over the division and separation of the Muslim brethren of Yemen. Also, the Islamic Republic of Iran, while opposing any kind of military operations and adopting a neutral stance, announced its willingness to carry out mediation in the conflict.

In this connection he added: Iran is deeply interested in preventing the foreign provoked dismemberment of Islamic countries and believes that differences among Muslims should be resolved through peaceful means. Therefore, Iran deeply regrets the killing of any Muslim in Yemen—whether from the south or the north—and calls on the warring sides to put an end to the war and begin talks, which should be aimed at preserving Yemen's integrity. Iran also calls on others to show restraint and not become a source for the dangerous escalation of the crisis.

Explosion in Zahedan Central Market Noted

LD0606194494 Tehran IRNA in English 1933 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., June 6, IRNA—A relatively powerful sound bomb went off at the central market here at 19:55 hours local time (15:22 hours GMT) Monday. Eye witnesses said three people were injured and windows of the nearby building shattered as a result of the explosion.

Local officials are investigating the cause of the explosion.

* AIDS-Infected Brazilian Diplomat Leaves

94LA0166B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 20 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] Tehran, 25 Farvardin [14 April] KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service—After it became known that he was infected with AIDS, the second secretary of the Brazilian embassy in Tehran was expelled from Iran.

A Muslim diplomat in Tehran disclosed: Mr. Paulo Madrus, chief of the Commerce Section and second secretary of the Brazilian Embassy, had just arrived at his position in Iran and was hospitalized as an emergency case at one of Tehran's hospitals and his blood was tested. The test showed that his blood was infected with HIV, and this virus transmits AIDS.

It is said that after it was definitely determined he was infected with AIDS, the Iranian Foreign Ministry asked the Brazilian Embassy in Tehran to send him back to his country as soon as possible. His expulsion took place seven months ago (last year).

In a contact by KEYHAN-E HAVA'I with the Brazilian Embassy, an informed source in this embassy confirmed that **Paulo Madrus**, the chief of the Commerce Section and second secretary of the Brazilian Embassy in Iran, left Tehran seven months ago due to illness, but this source did not mention the nature of the diplomat's illness.

The same source confirmed that since the return of the aforementioned diplomat to Brazil, Hinaldo Esturani, another Brazilian diplomat, has taken over as chief of the embassy's Commerce Section.

In repeated contacts by KEYHAN-E HAVA'I with officials at the Foreign Ministry to determine if the report that the aforementioned diplomat was infected with AIDS and was expelled from Iran is true or not, they were unwilling to say anything about it, nor would they give any reason for their silence on the subject.

The aforementioned Muslim diplomat criticized the Foreign Ministry's behavior in this regard. He said: Unfortunately, it is observed that the behavior of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs towards the foreign diplomats living in Tehran, especially Western diplomats, is negligent, and this leads to insolence on the part of many Western diplomats.

It is worth mentioning that last year also KEYHAN-E HAVA'I disclosed the infection of a Dutch diplomat with AIDS. It was known before this Dutch diplomat came to Iran that he had AIDS, but the Dutch Foreign Ministry sent him anyway.

In an answer to KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, the Dutch Embassy tried to deny that the Dutch Foreign Ministry had knowingly sent a diplomat infected with HIV to Iran, but the Dutch Embassy's efforts were of no avail in the face of the sharp public opinion response in Iran.

Based on information obtained from reliable sources, the Brazilian diplomat was also infected with AIDS before he was sent to his post in Tehran.

The Muslim diplomat who gave us the report that the Brazilian Embassy's commercial attache was infected with the AIDS virus said he had no information on

whether or not the Brazilian diplomat infected with HIV was sent to Tehran knowingly and with specific intention by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry.

He emphasized that Westerners spread various diseases, including AIDS, with their careless behavior. He said: As a Muslim, I expect the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry not to deal passively with Western political leaders and diplomats and to make them understand the necessity to observe Islamic values.

It is worth mentioning that many Iranian physicians and specialists in contagious diseases have expressed concern about the relations between foreign diplomats in Tehran and some Iranian families. These specialists and physicians believe that casual relations could lead to the spread of AIDS among individuals who have close contact with foreign diplomats infected with this virus, and these kinds of relations could involuntarily lead to the spread of the HIV infection through the country. Specialists in contagious diseases thus advise Iranian families to avoid contact and relations with foreign diplomats.

* Foreign Ministry's Silence Criticized

94LA0166C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 20 Apr 94 p 8

[Commentary by Faramarz Qorabaghi]

[Text] News Service— Late in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] a report made the rounds among foreign diplomats living in Tehran that the consul of the Dutch Embassy was infected with AIDS. This report was also published in some of the nation's press, but the Foreign Ministry made no comment on the publication to this report.

Also, last year we saw the quiet expulsion of a Brazilian diplomat from Tehran, and again the Foreign Ministry chose to remain silent on the subject.

The periodic publication of reports of this type shows the necessity for careful hygienic monitoring of the foreign diplomats living in Iran. Although some of the nation's officials believe that it is proper to look the other way on this matter, it must be emphasized that the hygienic monitoring of foreign diplomats is the lawful right of any country, including Iran.

Of course, the monitoring procedures must be such that they create maximum confidence for the appropriate officials. The Foreign Ministry can test the foreign diplomats living in Tehran after informing the diplomatic organizations in the other countries and coordinating this with the responsible domestic organizations, in order to ensure their physical health (it is worth mentioning that the fact that the Brazilian Embassy's second secretary and commercial attache was infected with AIDS became known only after he went to one of Tehran's hospitals for emergency treatment).

However, the fact that the Foreign Ministry is negligent in its monitoring of foreign diplomats in Tehran, especially the diplomats from non-Muslim countries, is not the only point deserving of criticism. Many other questions also arise. For example, why do officials in the Foreign Ministry think the publication of reports such as the one previously mentioned and providing this information to the public and the media will undermine the Foreign Ministry's relations with foreign countries?

The Foreign Ministry's officials are well aware that the media and the press in the Western nations have close ties to the diplomatic organizations in their countries. These ties are not confined to the exchange of information and reports. They even come into play in the incitement of public opinion and propaganda controversies; for example, we have seen repeatedly that some Western governments, before making a hostile political move against Iran, have aroused public opinion against Iran through their media. On the other hand, instances have been seen where first the Western governments have incited the public with litanies against Iran and then their mass media have undertaken a propaganda campaign, even going so far as to slander Iran.

In Iran, however, the Foreign Ministry behaves differently towards the media. With regard to the AIDS infection of the Dutch consul, for example, the Foreign Ministry remained silent despite its knowledge of this subject, and unfortunately when the Dutch Embassy lied in its answer to the publication of this report in KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, the Foreign Ministry continued this unbecoming silence. Now, some time later, the truth of the claim made by KEYHAN-E HAVA'I has been vindicated. Of course, some people may think that reports like this are not worthy of being published in respectable publications and are more characteristic of the sensationalist press. We must emphasize that we do not support the sensationalist press in any way, but one must not shun reporting on events, and "reality" must not be kept from the public.

The people and the press are asking: Why, when the Turkish Consulate in Urmia deliberately made fraudulent modifications to the electrical power meter in its consulate building, did Foreign Ministry officials fail to react to this illegal activity and put the seal of silence on their lips, as they have done in other cases? Indifference on the part of Foreign Ministry officials in cases like this is seen by public opinion as implicit acceptance and collaborative silence on the part of the aforementioned officials, and of course the Foreign Ministry does not agree with such an implication.

The matter of the expulsion of a Brazilian diplomat from Tehran because he is infected with AIDS is not something that should be kept from public view.

In expelling him, the Foreign Ministry has not made a mistake whose disclosure it should fear. When in countries like England even animals are quarantined when entering the country, it is natural that more attention

than before should be given to health and hygiene in a country with several tens of millions. Monitoring the hygiene of foreign diplomats in Tehran is a small but very important step in this regard.

* Managing Director on Minorities' Publications

94LA0170C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 4 May 94 p 3

[Text] Tehran, 14 Ordibehesht [24 April] IRNA—The managing director of the Armenian language newspaper ALIK, which is published for Armenian compatriots in Iran, said: Publications for religious minorities in Iran are very active and there are no limitations on them.

Albert 'Ajamian, concession holder and managing director of the newspaper ALIK, gave an interview in which he discussed the social rights of religious minorities. He said: In order to understand the status of religious minorities in Iran, those advocating human rights may study the Constitution of Iran—which systematically specifies minority rights.

'Ajamian discussed Armenian press activities in our country. He said: Currently most of Iran's religious activities have publications, and there are no restrictions on obtaining concessions for a publication.

He also said: To publish its newspaper, the ALIK Religious and Cultural Society uses resources from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, such as paper ration and printing equipment.

In conclusion, the managing director of the newspaper ALIK discussed the willingness of the Armenians in our country to broadcast a program over the Voice and Vision organization in the Armenian language.

The Armenian language newspaper ALIK is printed in Tehran and is sent to Armenians in more than 40 countries.

This newspaper, which began operating in 1310 [21 March 1931-20 March 1932], publishes news about developments in Iran and the world; commentary, cultural and educational materials and reports on Armenians in the world. On various occasions it also prints Persian-language supplements.

* Report on New Publications in Last 4 Years

94LA0168F Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 11 May 94 p 3

[Text] 11 Ordibehesht [1 May]—Sixty percent of the current publications in Iran were added to the nation's publications market after the triumph of the Islamic revolution.

The First Press Festival News Staff reports that studies show that 40 percent of the nation's publications were born after the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990].

In Iran about 80 percent of the publications are published in the Persian language and the other 20 percent are published in other languages, mostly English and Arabic. This study shows that science, research, and the social humanities, with 19.2 percent, is the largest group of publications in terms of area of activity. Ranking next are general magazines, with a 13.9-percent share of the total.

The number of publications has increased dramatically at several points in the nation's history, including the period of the Constitutional Revolution, the era of the peak of the triumph of the Islamic revolution and the current period.

The year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] is unprecedented in the 157-year history of the nation's press in terms of the number and variety of its publications, and also in terms of the number of individuals employed in this profession. In this year, 550 different publication titles were published.

Based on studies that have been done, the audience for about 36 percent of Iran's press is the general public. Ranking next is publications targeted at various social groups. The women and children's group, with 29 percent of the total, ranks first among the targeted groups. In the area of specialist publications, statistics show that those with university specialties are the intended audience for 9 percent of publications.

Likewise, research on levels of education and the correspondence between fields of study and occupation shows that 68.5 percent of Iran's newspaper journalists have university educations, and that 1.6 percent of them studied journalism. Most of those with higher education in the journalism fields are working as journalists in high-circulation newspapers. It is worth mentioning that about 13 percent of Iran's newspaper journalists are women.

Sri Lanka

Military Claims 'Heavy' Losses Inflicted on LTTE

BK0706112394 Hong Kong AFP in English 0756 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Colombo, June 7 (AFP)—Security forces Tuesday [7 June] claimed heavy Tamil guerrilla casualties outside a strategic military base in northern Sri Lanka following a rebel pressure mine attack at a nearby naval facility.

Troops moved ahead of their outer defences at the sprawling Palaly military complex on the northern Jaffna Peninsula Monday and killed or wounded up to 20 rebels, a military statement here said.

Troops fired at guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) at coastal Madagal village, which forms part of the Palaly defences. Palaly is the staging post for air force operations against Tigers in the region.

The military statement said ground troops also destroyed a tractor that was bringing rebel reinforcements to Madagal. The statement put the rebel casualties at "15 to 20," revising an earlier military figure of 40.

The fighting came just hours after a LTTE pressure mine blew up a Navy water bowser at the main Navy base on the islet of Karainagar, killing one sailor, the statement said without giving further details.

There have been similar mine attacks and the entire Northern Military High Command, comprising nine senior Army and Navy officers, was killed in a mine attack at another small islet near Jaffna in August 1992.

Karainagar is located just west of the Tiger-dominated Jaffna Peninsula. The LTTE is leading a violent seccessionist campaign in the northeast, home to Sri Lanka's two million-strong Tamil minority.

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